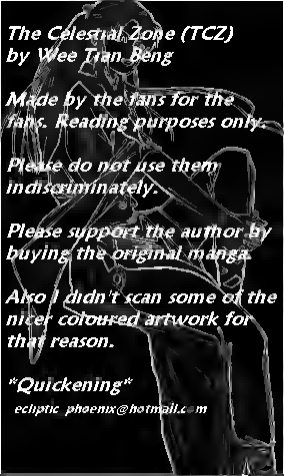
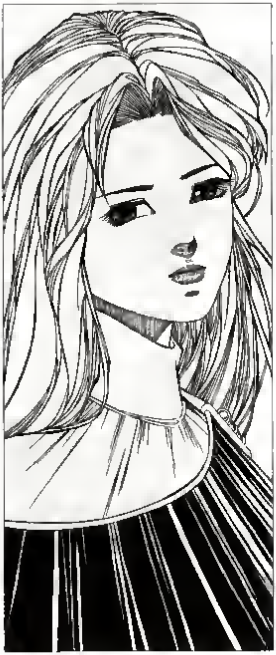

The Celestial Zone (TCZ)
by Wee Tian Beng
Made by the fans for the fans. Reading purposes only.
Please do not use them indiscriminately.
Please support the author by buying the original manga.
Also I didn't scan some of the nicer coloured artwork for that reason.
"Quickening"
ecliptic_phoenix@hotmail.com

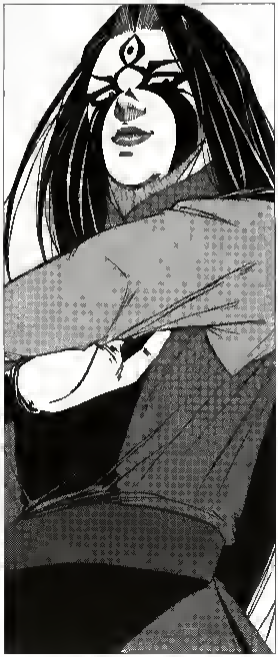
Chapter Thirty-Three
Xue Xinling 7

Chapter Thirty-Four
No. 1 in the Righteous Realm 37



Chapter Thirty-Five
Xue Xinling: First Strike *71*

Chapter Thirty-Six
Endless Three and Infinite Six *105*



Recapturing...

Wang Chan and Zi Yan passed by a village looted clean by a gang of bandits. They managed to force the ruffians into a hasty retreat and were warmly welcomed by the villagers. The next day, the dried corpses of the bandits were discovered. .

When the pair came to South Sea, they came to blows with One Brow of Qiong Qi Peak. Wang Chan finally met up with the guardians of the Dragon Fish — the Jiaos. They told him that he had to use his heart to communicate with the Dragon Fish...

Chi Xue gradually recovered. She gave Xing Ling some pointers to aid her practice, just as Wang Chan had requested. Xing Ling would then be able to transform the 100-year aura within her into a spirit sword and harness this force for her own use...

The evil realm stepped up their plans to attack Mt Dream-Cloud.

Quickening

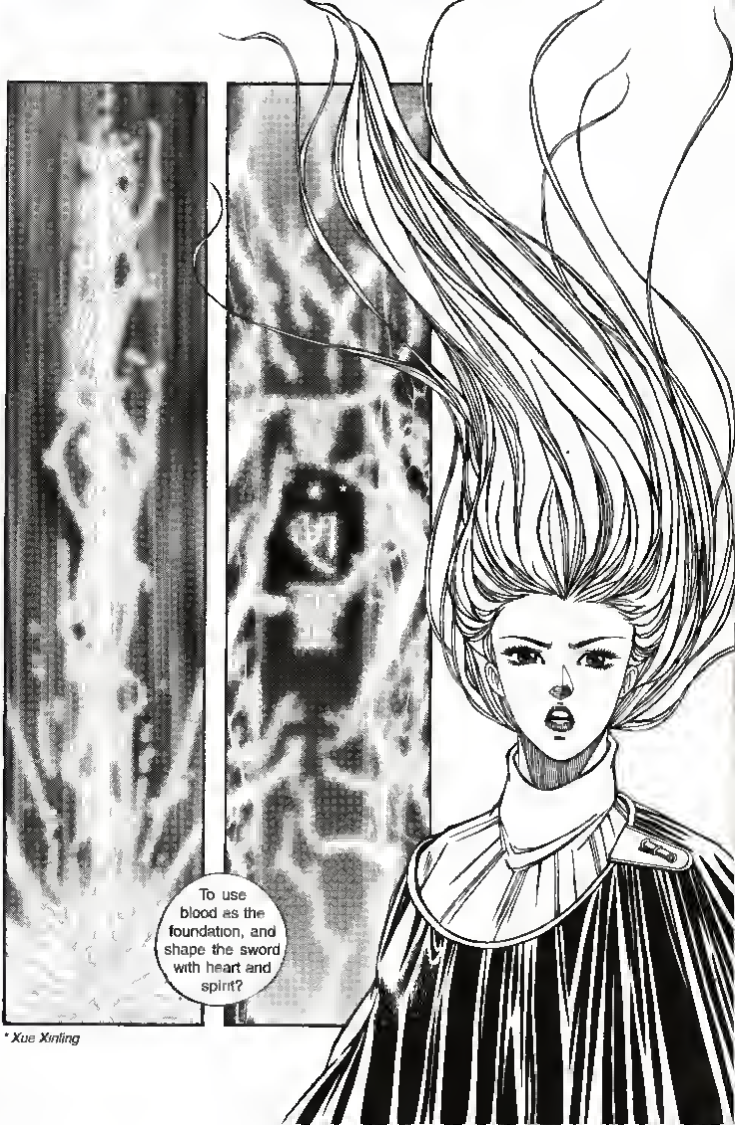
Thanks for reading TCZ!
Please buy the original manga!

SHOOT

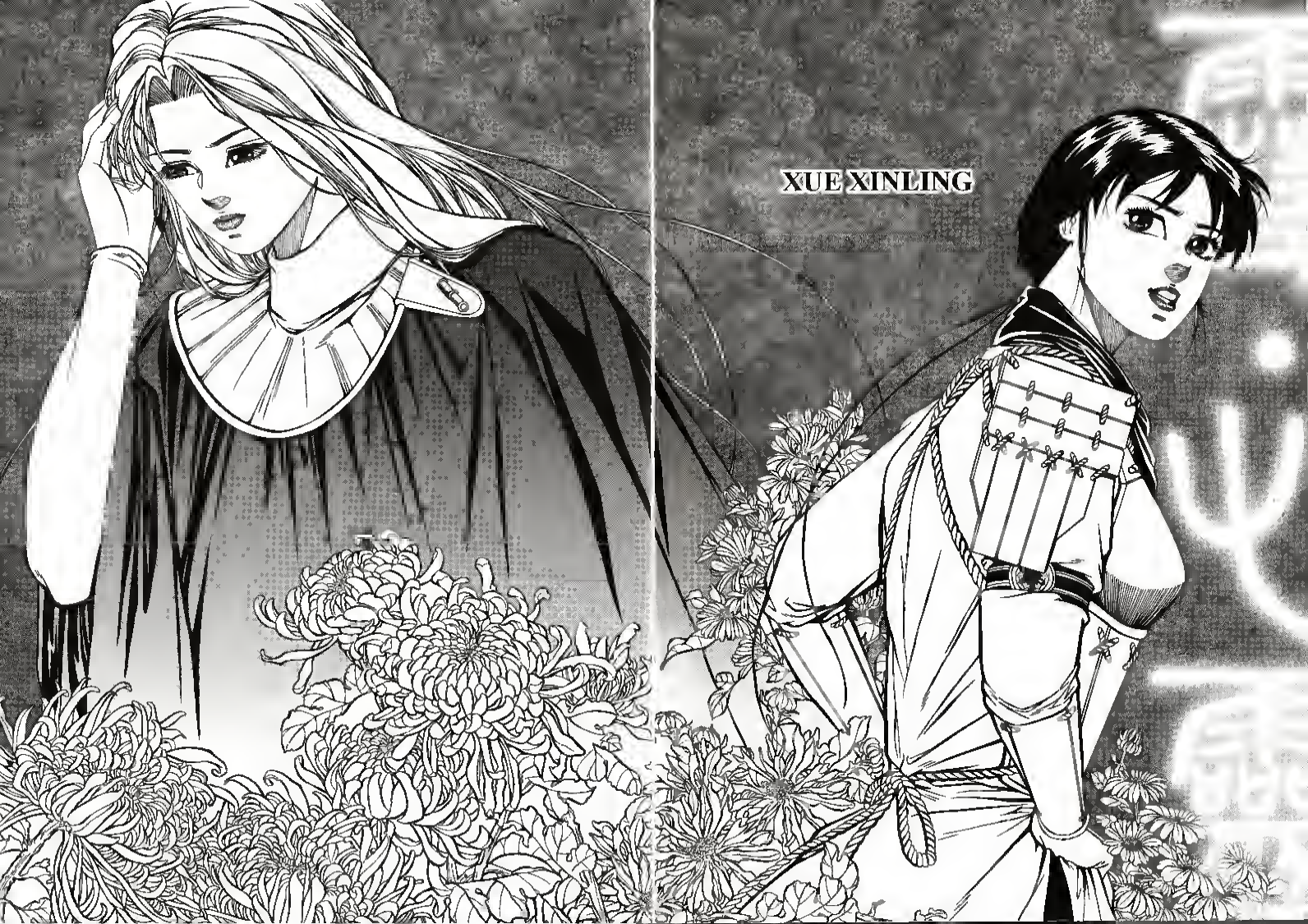
Hoop
Shoo

SKOSH
ARGH

Sloop

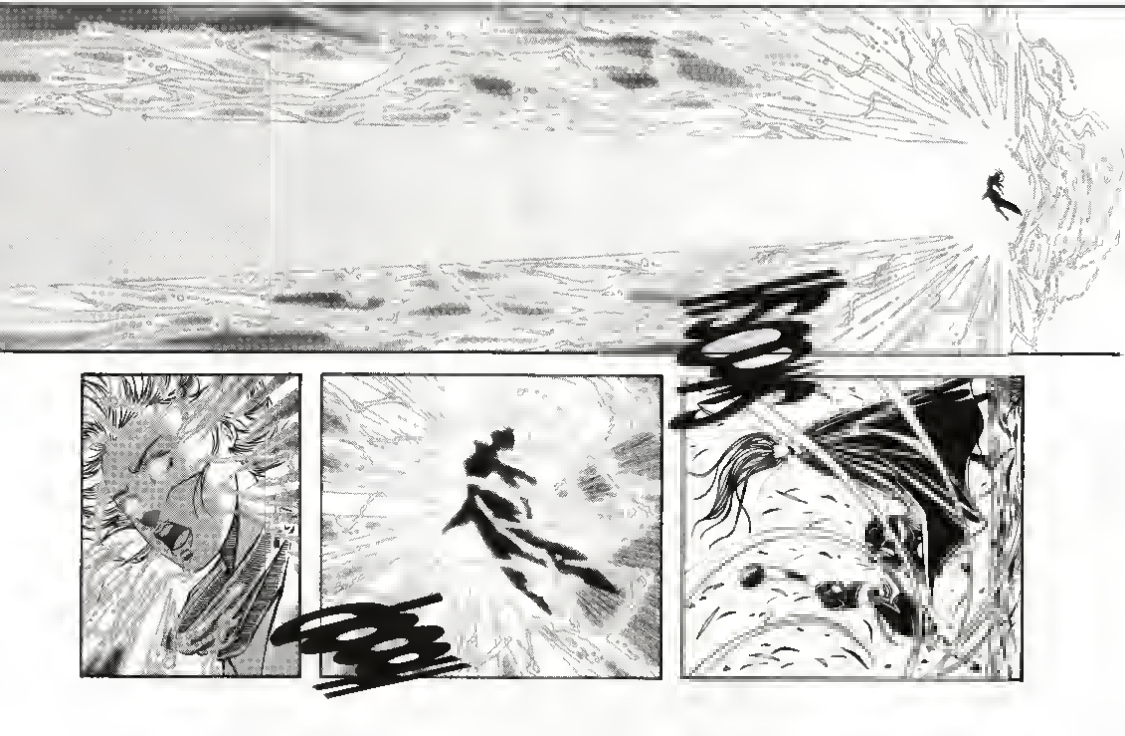

To use blood as the foundation, and shape the sword with heart and spirit?

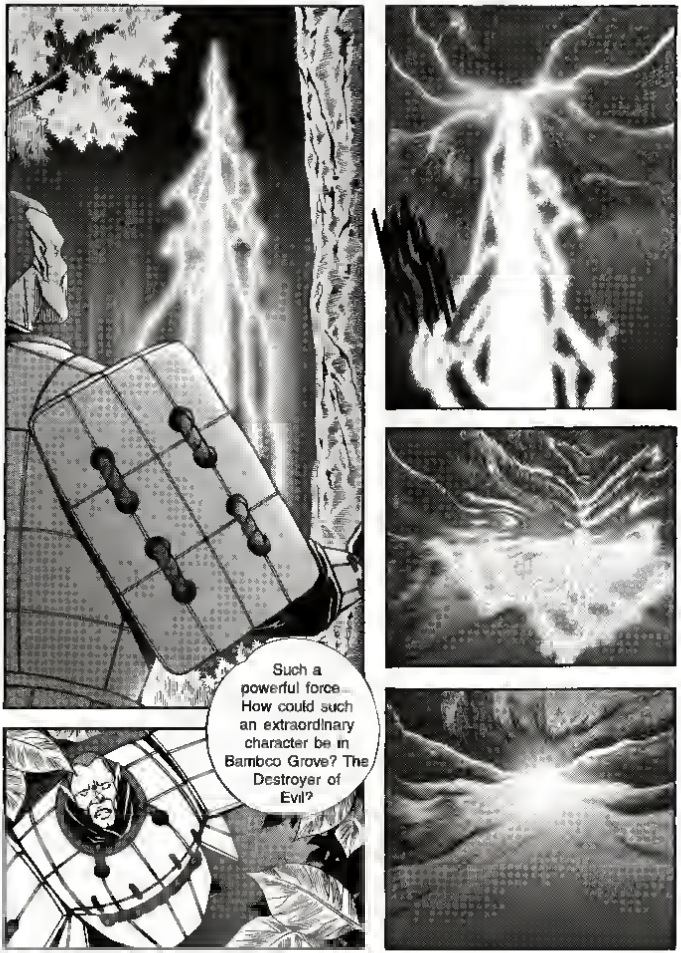
* Xue Xinling

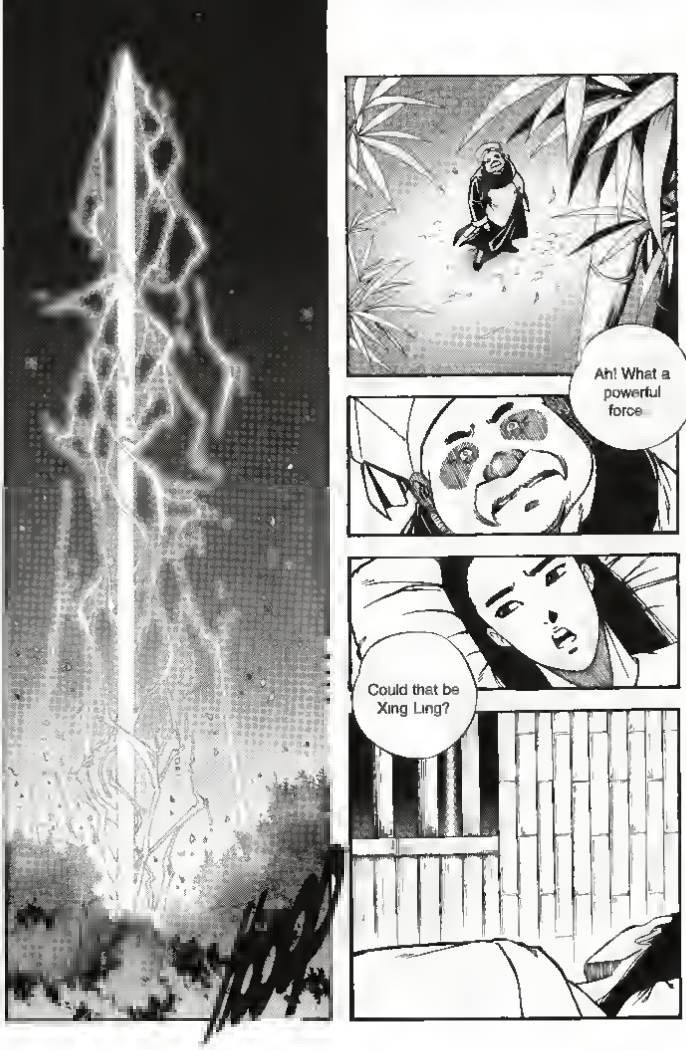

XUE XINLING

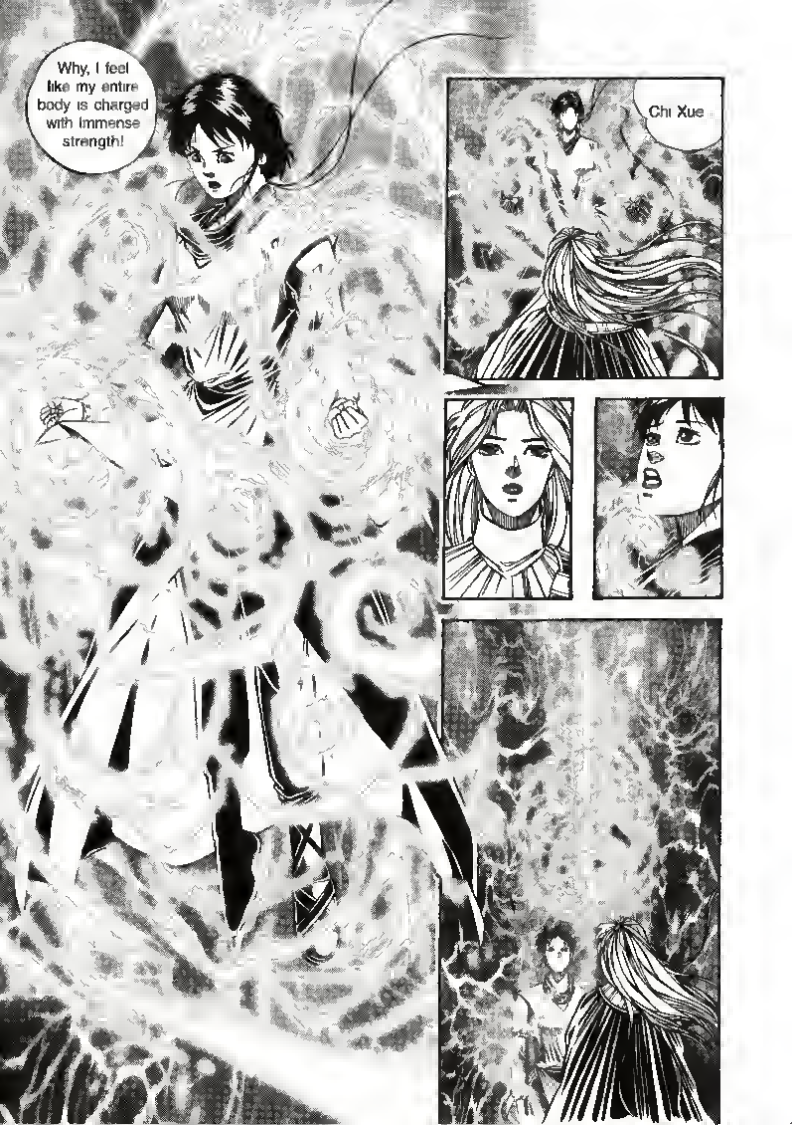
Ah! Xing Ling is going through another transformation!
Don't go over! It's the most crucial moment now...
She has to rely on her resilience to achieve a breakthrough!

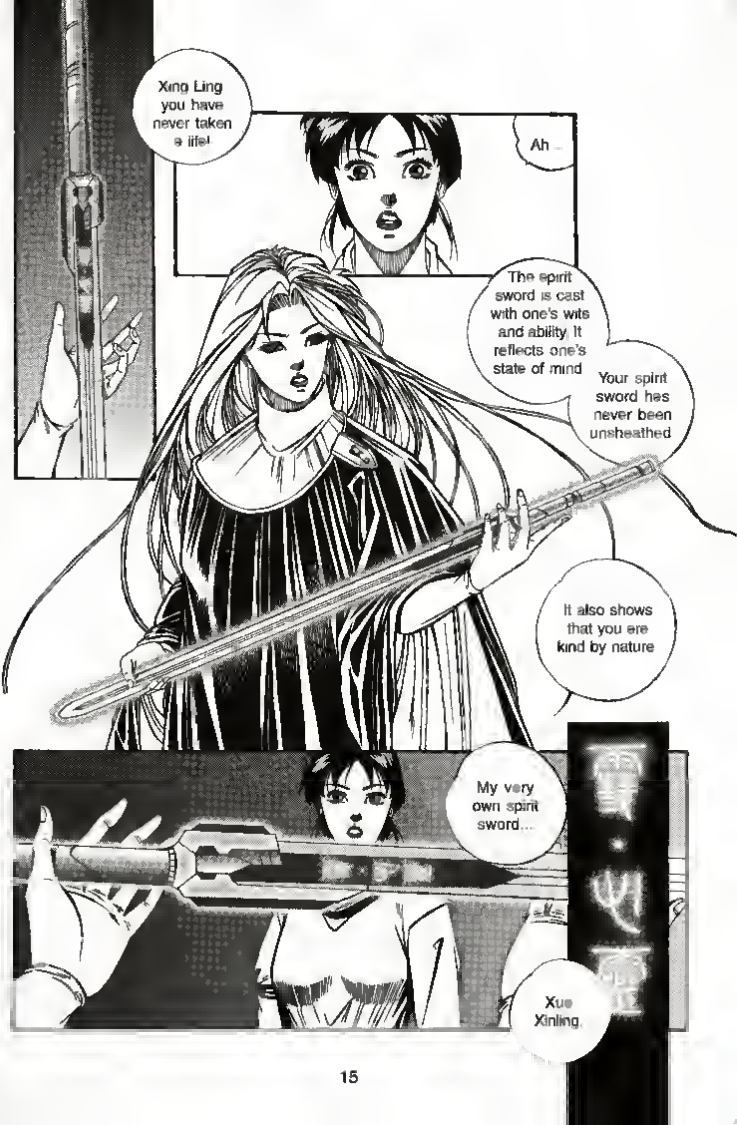
There ... there are two Xing Lings!

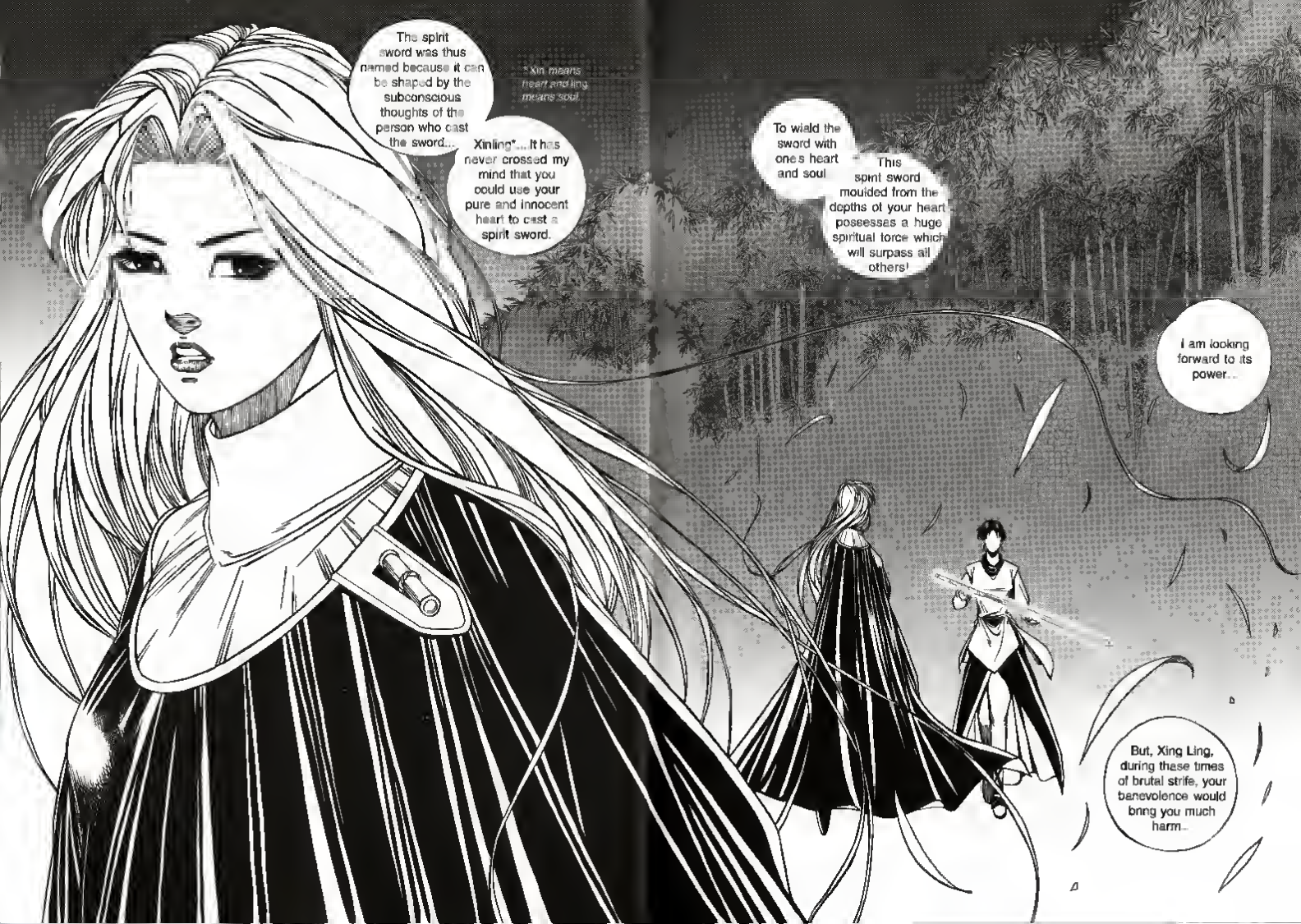



Such a powerful force... How could such an extraordinary character be in Bamboo Grove? The Destroyer of Evil?


Ah! What a powerful force
Could that be Xing Ling?


Why, I feel like my entire body is charged with immense strength!
Chi Xue


Xing Ling you have never taken a life!
Ah...
The spirit sword is cast with one's wits and ability. It reflects one's state of mind
Your spirit sword has never been unsheathed
It also shows that you are kind by nature
My very own spirit sword...
Xue Xinling.


The spirit sword was thus named because it can be shaped by the subconscious thoughts of the person who cast the sword...
Xin means heart and ling means soul.
Xinling"... It has never crossed my mind that you could use your pure and innocent heart to cast a spirit sword.
To wield the sword with one's heart and soul
This spirit sword moulded from the depths of your heart possesses a huge spiritual force which will surpass all others!
I am looking forward to its power...
But, Xing Ling, during these times of brutal strife, your benevolence would bring you much harm...

I... I just want to stop the destruction. I don't wish to kill...
There is a difference between ideal and reality... You will understand this in future...
Do you feel as if your body is charged with energy?
Uh-huh...
When a swordsman manages to wield his spirit sword, his power will be fully released.
Now after you've wielded your spirit sword, your speed, strength and perception will improve tremendously!

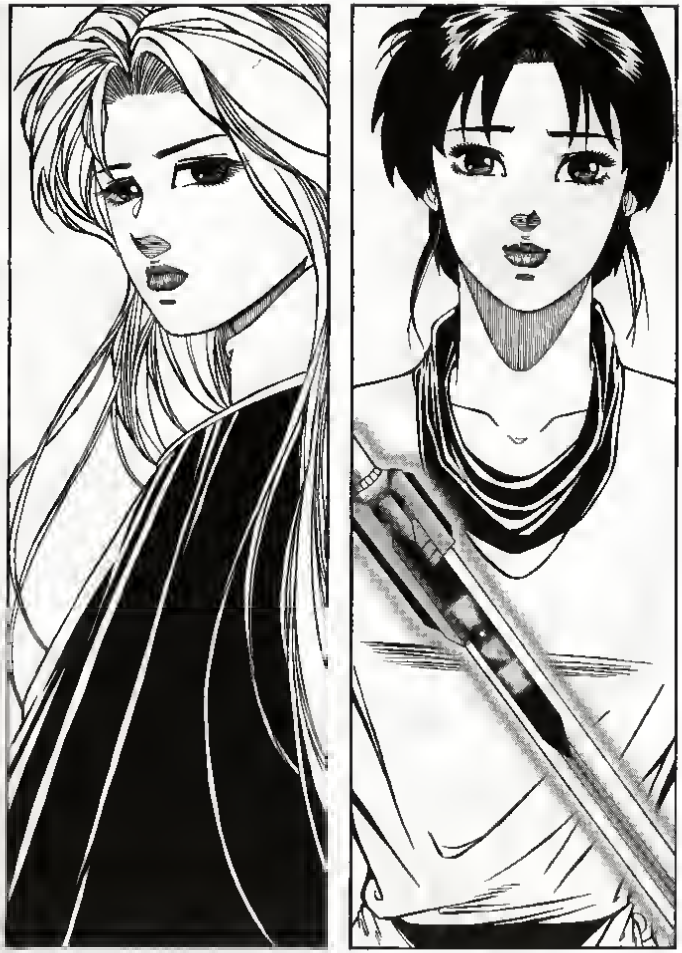
This Xue Xinling has amassed a huge portion of the Aura of E-mei which you're unable to assimilate into your body
The rest of the Aura of E-mei has already been combined with your spiritual force!
Although you've only absorbed a portion of the Aura of E-mei your spiritual force must not be belittled!
In the days to come, you would need lots of practice and hard work to reach the ultimate level!
Also, you must take note that Xue Xinling's force is much mightier than your strength!
Hence, to maintain control over it is not easy! Never ever let the sword control you instead!
To unleash its full might, you must practise till the sword and you become one!

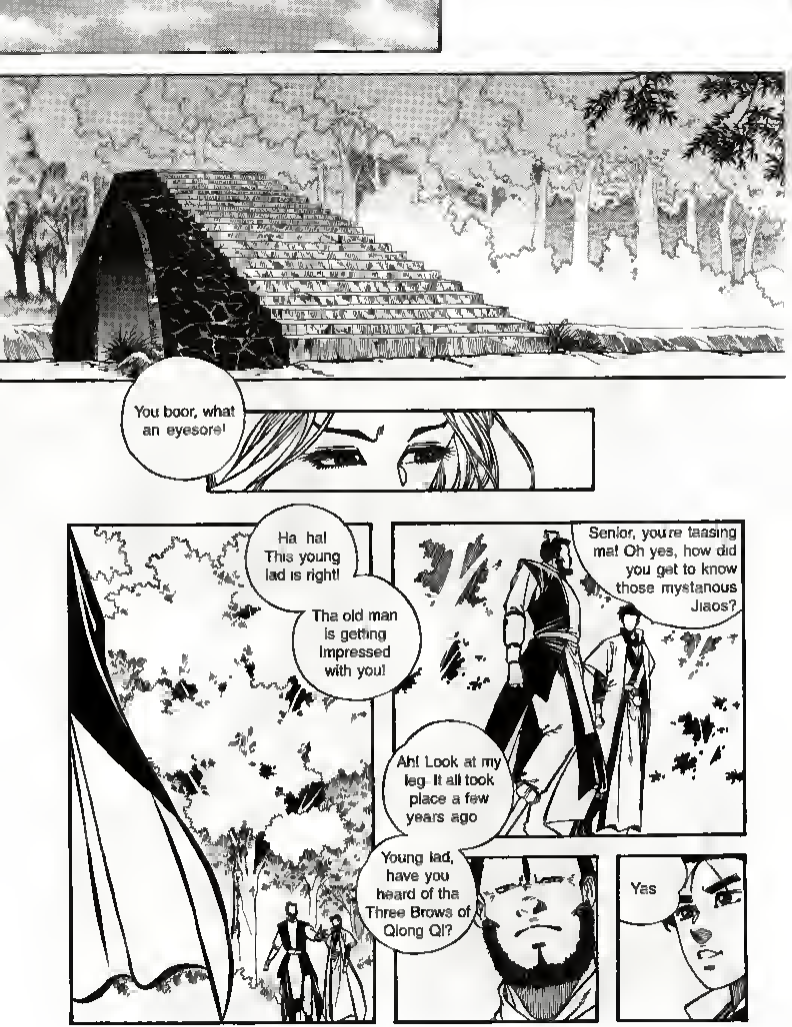
Become one with the sword?
That's right. Men and sword as one entity! That is the ultimate aim of all sword masters!
But those who can reach that level have shaped their own spirit swords — like us!
However, Xing Ling, it is already a miracle that you could reach the level of the spirit sword... so soon...
Actually when you told me that, to mould a spirit sword, one's entire spiritual force must be focused on one point...
I thought this was similar in theory to "water droplets penetrating a stone*", which I grasped the last time...
In the end, it came... very naturally...

** Please refer to volume 3*

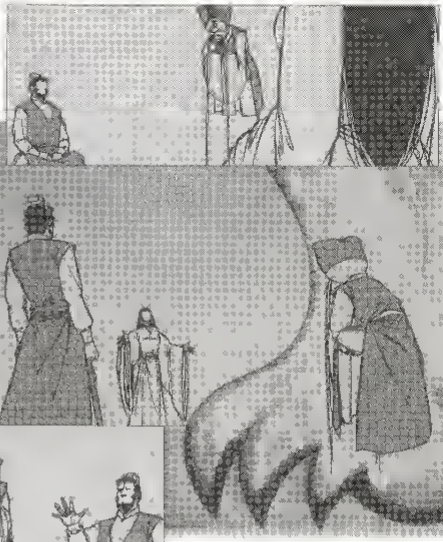
Xing Ling, you're really smart!
Chi Xue thank you — I should address you as Teacher...
Hold it! I'm here only because Wang Chan instructed me to give you some pointers
It's all due to your wits and perseverance We've nothing between us.

We do...
...as...
...friends!
Right! We are great pals!
Bosom buddies!




You boor, what an eyesore!
Ha ha! This young lad is right!
Tha old man is getting impressed with you!
Senior, you're teasing me! Oh yes, how did you get to know those mystanous Jiaos?
Ah! Look at my leg. It all took place a few years ago
Young lad, have you heard of tha Three Brows of Qiong Qi?
Yes

More than 10 years ago, after our great teacher passed away, my fellow disciples and I continued to practise at Qiong Qi Peak.



After some time, my irrepressible fellow disciple No Brow could no longer tolerate staying there and decided to descend the mountain to practise Taoism on her own.

Years later, she finally came back. She told us that she had joined the powerful Xuan Hua Sect. She listed the many benefits we could get if we joined her.

Being calculative, my senior fellow disciple Long Brow naturally agreed. But I objected.

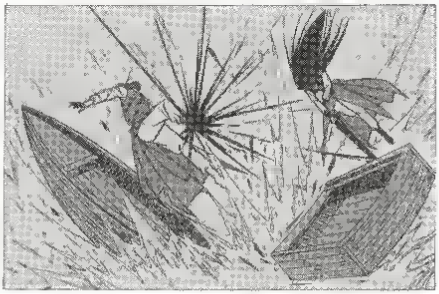
Not long after, No Brow stole my late teacher's manual. When giving chase, I met with an ambush by

— Xuan Tian Crow!

At that time, I had not mastered the spirit sword and was not her match!

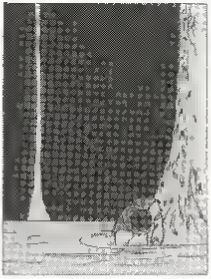
Fortunately, I was very familiar with the terrain and managed to escape!

But that crazy woman pursued me relentlessly. I was seriously injured by her at the South Sea. My right leg was crippled and I fell into the sea...



I was let off the hook as that demented witch could not swim.

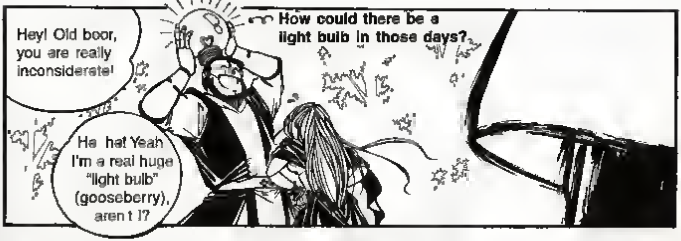
In a state of unconsciousness, I was swept by the undercurrents into a cave.

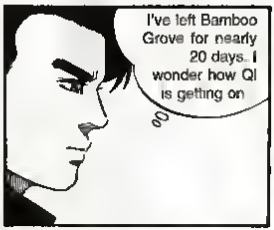


By a twist of fate, I was fished up by the kind Jiaos

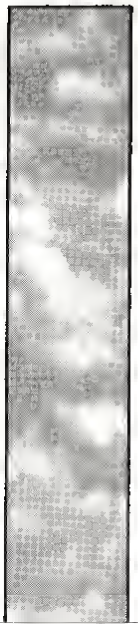
I recuperated and mastered the spirit sword there over the next few years
Lately my spirit sword took shape, so I decided to locate No Brow to retrieve the stolen manual
I didn't anticipate the Dried Corpse Incident or meeting you
Senior, do you suspect she's responsible for those dried corpses?
I won't deny it she's my prime suspect. I will wait for my chance
Senior, although she is from the evil realm, she is not evil by nature. I hope she can change for the better one day

Hey! What are you two discussing in that corner?
The sun is setting soon! What shall we eat for dinner tonight?
And, old boor, you've already followed us for so many days! Aren't you're done yet?
I'm looking for my junior and since Wang Chan is returning to Bamboo Grove I'll tag along.
At the same time, I can seek Panda Sage's help in finding No Brow!
What?! You want to return to Bamboo Grove with us?
Us? Don't tell me you're going to Bamboo Grove with me too?
Of course! Can't I? And stop calling me you, you, you. My name is Yan-er!

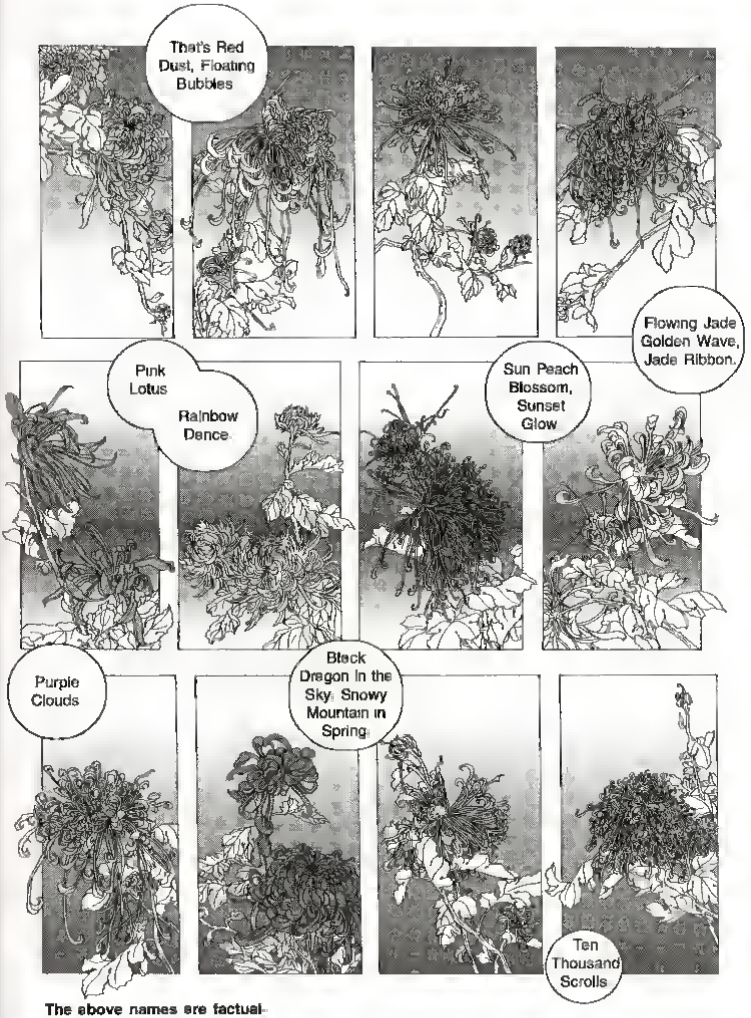

Hey! Old boor, you are really inconsiderate!
How could there be a light bulb in those days?
Ha ha! Yeah I'm a real huge "light bulb" (gooseberry), aren't I?


I've left Bamboo Grove for nearly 20 days. I wonder how QI is getting on

And



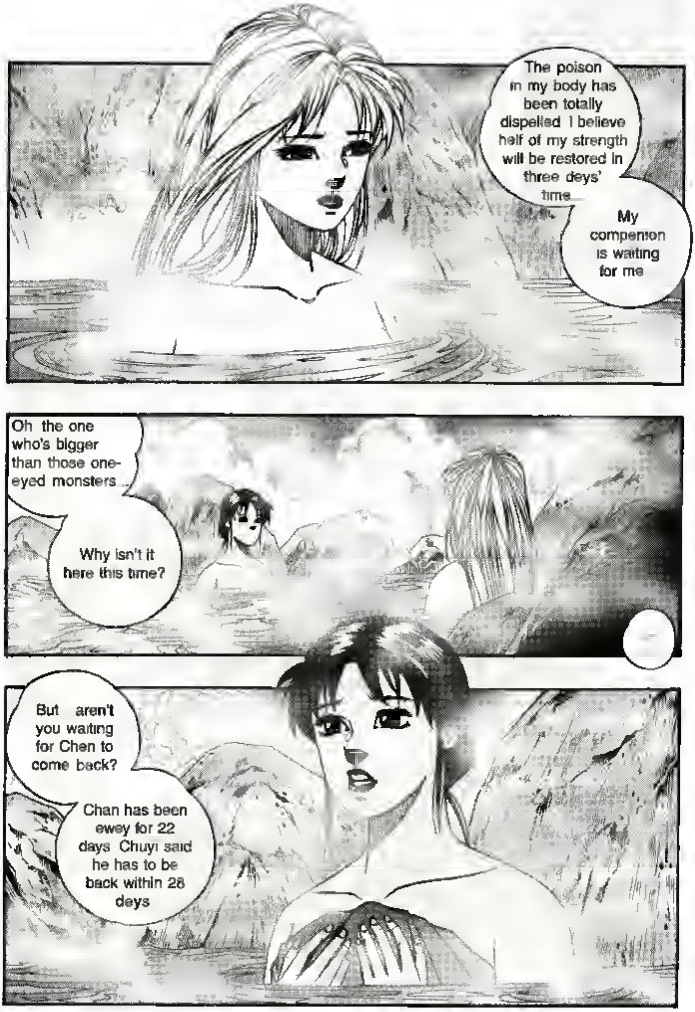
Wow!
It's really stunning... so beautiful indeed...
Good heavens! Why are there... chrysenthemums everywhere?
Why do you think this is called Chrysenthemum Spring!
Chi Xue, look, the chrysenthemums are all of a different variety. Absolutely fabulous.
Wow! If only we know all their names!
...
...
It's not that difficult! The one on the right is Yellow Dusk.
On the left is Fragrent Silhouette.

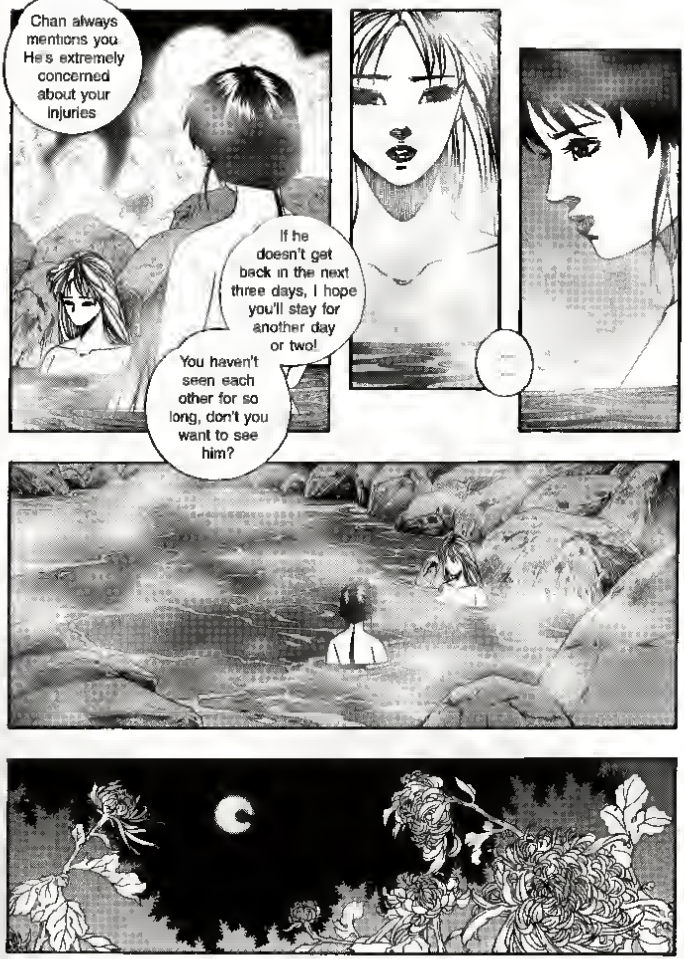

That's Red Dust, Floating Bubbles
Flowing Jade Golden Wave, Jade Ribbon
Pink Lotus
Rainbow Dance
Sun Peach Blossom, Sunset Glow
Purple Clouds
Black Dragon In the Sky, Snowy Mountain in Spring
Ten Thousand Scrolls

The above names are factual.

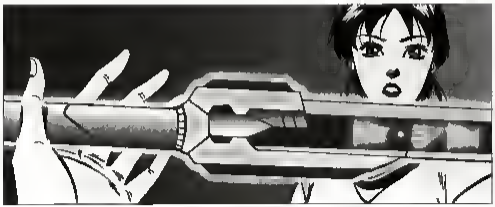
Totally awestruck.
That's Daybreak Glow Emerald Wave and Thousand-headed Chrysanthemum.
Why do you all have such profound knowledge? *Utterly envious.*
Actually
If a person grows up in such an environment, it's very natural to know such things
From young?
Hey! Wash up quickly so we can have dinner!
I'll leave first to prepare!

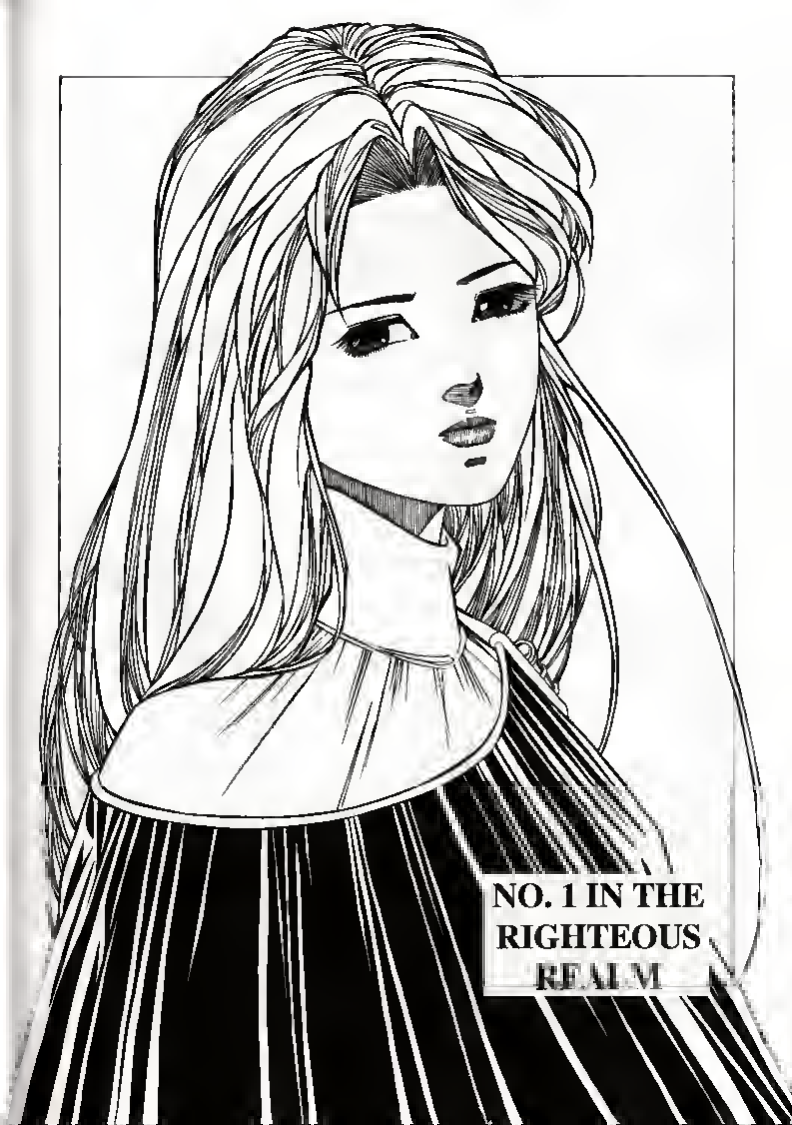
Wow... It feels so good!
Xing Ling, have you memorised the oral formula for using the spirit sword? We shall begin our practice tomorrow
Sure!
I hope you can grasp the basics of using the spirit sword in two to three days' time. I'll be leaving soon
So soon?! But why?


The poison in my body has been totally dispelled. I believe half of my strength will be restored in three days' time.
My companion is waiting for me
Oh the one who's bigger than those one-eyed monsters...
Why isn't it here this time?
But aren't you waiting for Chen to come back?
Chan has been away for 22 days. Chuyi said he has to be back within 28 days


Chan always mentions you. He's extremely concerned about your injuries
If he doesn't get back in the next three days, I hope you'll stay for another day or two!
You haven't seen each other for so long, don't you want to see him?

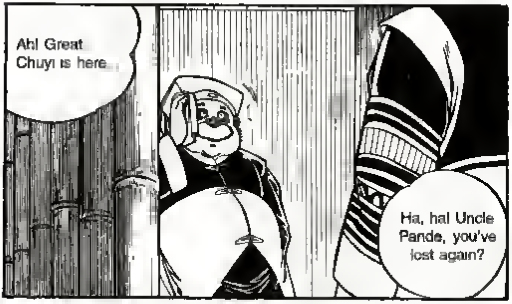
Quickening




NO. 1 IN THE
RIGHTEOUS
REALM

Sorry I'm taking another six black pawns
Hey, Old Panda, it's your turn!
Wah! I can't take it anymore!
Hey! Xiao Qi, you're too much! How could you crush me so cruelly? How could your chess skills improve at such an alarming rate?!
Ha ha! You old panda.
I'm basically an easygoing fellow, but when it comes to chess, I do my utmost for each game!

Sigh... I admit defeat...
Looks like I wouldn't dare visit you again. You cause me great mental anguish!
Ha, ha... Hey! Come on... I'll let you have two pawns next time!


Ah! Great Chuyi is here...
Ha, ha! Uncle Panda, you've lost again?

If I said I've won, would you believe me?

He, he! Qi... how are you feeling today?

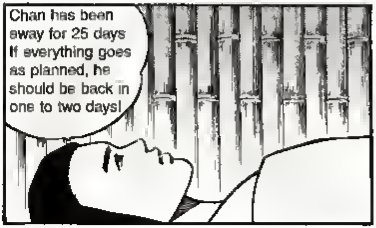
Great! Oh yes, how are things with Xing Ling and Chi Xue?

They're fine!
Xing Ling has managed to grasp the basics of using a sword!

Chi Xue is slowly regaining her strength but she's leaving today...

Huh? She's not waiting for Chan?

She wanted to leave last night but Xing Ling got her to stay for another day
Xing Ling is still persuading her not to leave...


Chan has been away for 25 days If everything goes as planned, he should be back in one to two days!

That's precisely the reason why Xing Ling is not letting Chi Xue leave so soon!

All right, Chuyi, examine him quick! I need to make a speedy escape!
He, ha! I can't believe Uncle Panda is afraid of Qi!
Sigh! Seems like I'll be losing a great chess-mate... Ah! Chuyi, why don't I teach...
!
Ha, ha, ha....

Chi Xue, you've already waited an evening, why not wait another day?
Today is the 25th day since Chan left. He'll certainly be back in a couple of days
Moreover, I need to seek your guidance on many aspects of swordplay
Xing Ling, you're extremely intelligent, and you've mastered what I've taught you over the past three days!
All you need now is time to put yourself through the mill and become well-versed in swordplay

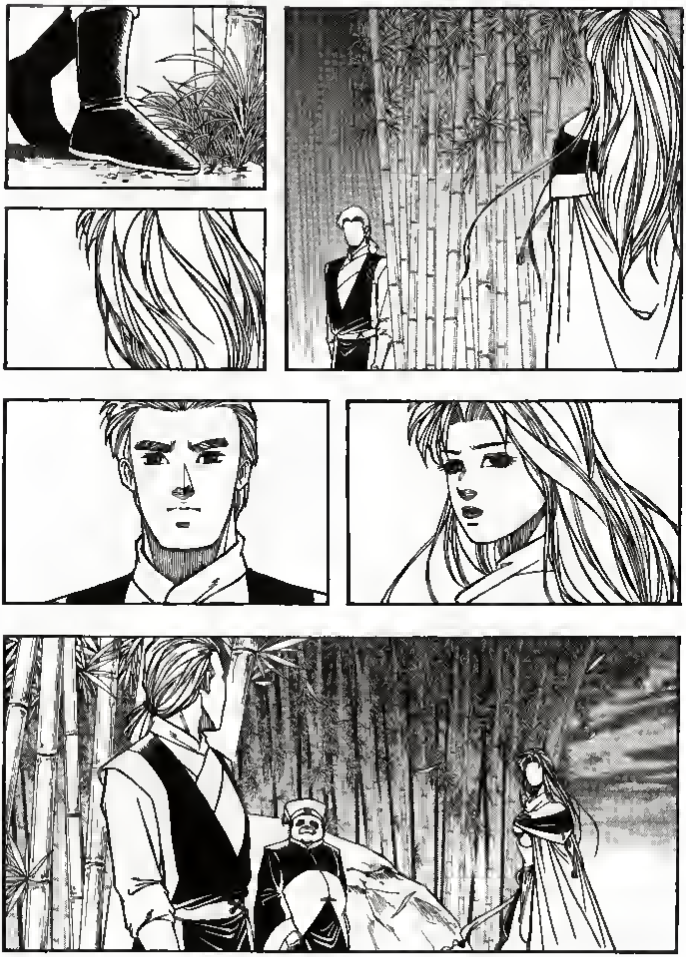
I've already extended my stay for more than half a day
Xing Ling, this Red Blood Jade is for you!
And please inform Wang Chan that, with the surging influence of the evil realm, Mt Dream-Cloud will be attacked soon!
When that time arrives, I'll be at Mt Dream-Cloud!
SHUK
Chi Xue

Ah! Xing Ling, is Chi Xue gone?
Just left
Aiyah! I rushed to make her this set of new clothes
Ah! Never mind! When Chan comes back, I'll help you take this to Chi Xue!
I know her whereabouts!
Oh! That's simply wonderful!
Here!

You've mastered the spirit sword in such a short time! You're terrific!
And faster than the Destroyer of Evil herself!
No!
The method I learnt was created by Chi Xue herself. All I did was follow her teachings!
To create is 1,000 times more difficult than to merely follow. Even if I am faster, I have nothing to be proud of!
Heh, heh! I think you are both great!
Chi Xue is still my idol! I'm far behind her!

Xue-er, you're not completely well yet why leave in such haste?
Chrysanthemum Spring... Thank you...
Sigh, that's where you should go...

Xue-er, do you know who set up this Bamboo Grove?
Yes
Go back now! I'm sure they are all anxiously waiting for you .
I'll return after my mission
Sigh



SHUK
Destroyer of Evil... The "No. 1 in the Righteous Realm" title...
...will be mine in the end!

Quick!

Rise!
Retrieve!

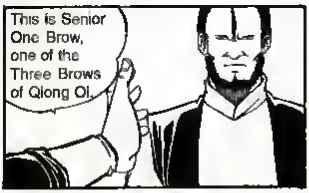
Wow!
Smells
heavenly!
Ha!
Careful!

Chuyi! Xing Ling! Great news!
Brother Wang Chan is back!

Chan, you're back!
Xing Ling! Chuyi!
Ah!
Hi! How's everyone?

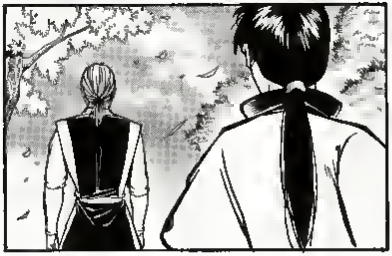
Don't look at me with such hostility!
I'm only here as Chan's friend I've no ulterior motives!
Old Panda, am I not welcomed?
Ha, ha! Everybody knows that I, Old Panda, am the most neutral party in the Celestial Zone!
How can I not welcome a famous personality like you, West White Tiger Zi Yan?
On my account I hope no one would cause any unpleasantness!
In Bamboo Grove everyone is my friend!

Brother Wu, Chuyi, Xing Ling, Miss Zi Yan was e great help in my quest for the medicine


This is Senior One Brow, one of the Three Brows of Qiong Qi.

He, ha! One Brow of Qiong Qi Peak. Welcome!

Ha, ha! It's great to meet so many young outstanding talents!

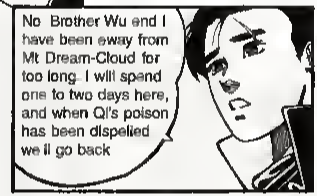


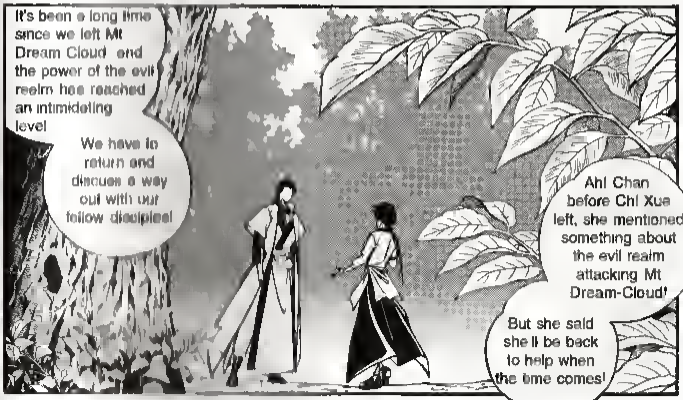
Chuyi, is Qi all right? This is the scale of the Dragon Fish. Go prepare his medicine!
Yes!
Terrific! Panda Belle, come help me!
OK!
Xing Ling, you look much better!
Uh-huh, I'm all right now, but
Xing Ling, let's talk at the back of the mountain!
Sure

Chan, if only you were back a day earlier. Chi Xue left yesterday evening...
Ah! She's completely recovered?
Not entirely, but according to her, she has restored half her strength!
I could feel that she had wanted to wait for you, so I tried to persuade her to stay, but...
Chi Xue mentioned that when she was injured, her companion Xiaobai shielded her.
Chi Xue was worried about Xiaobai's safety, so she had to leave...

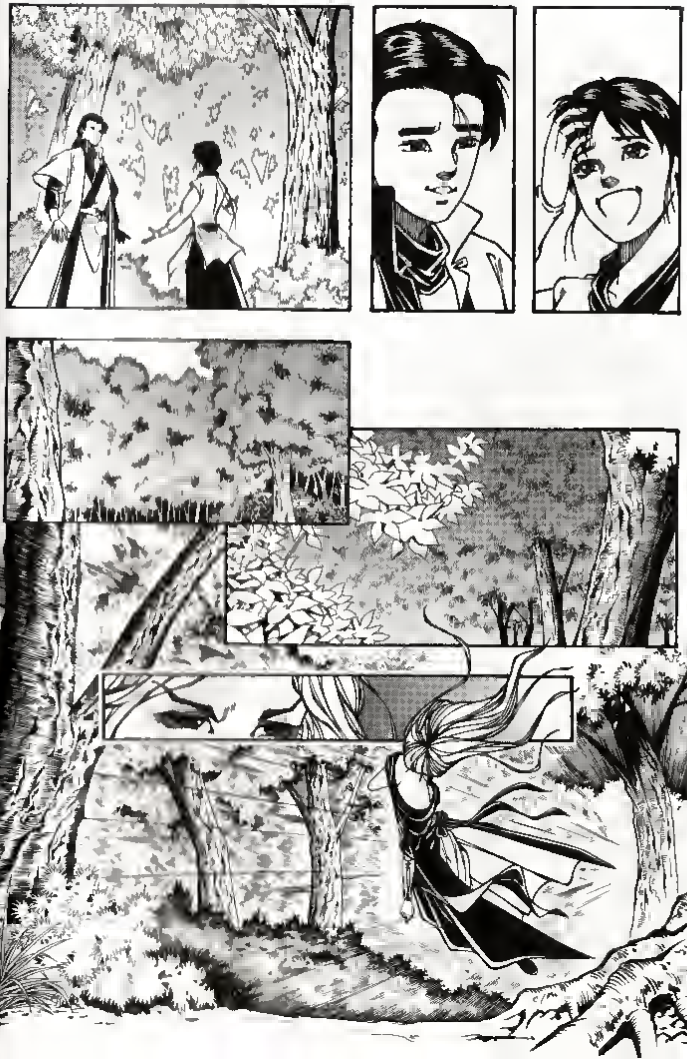
But I'll look for Chi Xue tomorrow! Panda Belle has sewn her a set of new clothes but couldn't give it to her in time!
I know her whereabouts, so I'm going to take the clothes to her!

Chan, why don't we go together? Then you can see her!


No. Brother Wu and I have been away from Mt Dream-Cloud for too long. I will spend one to two days here, and when Qi's poison has been dispelled we'll go back

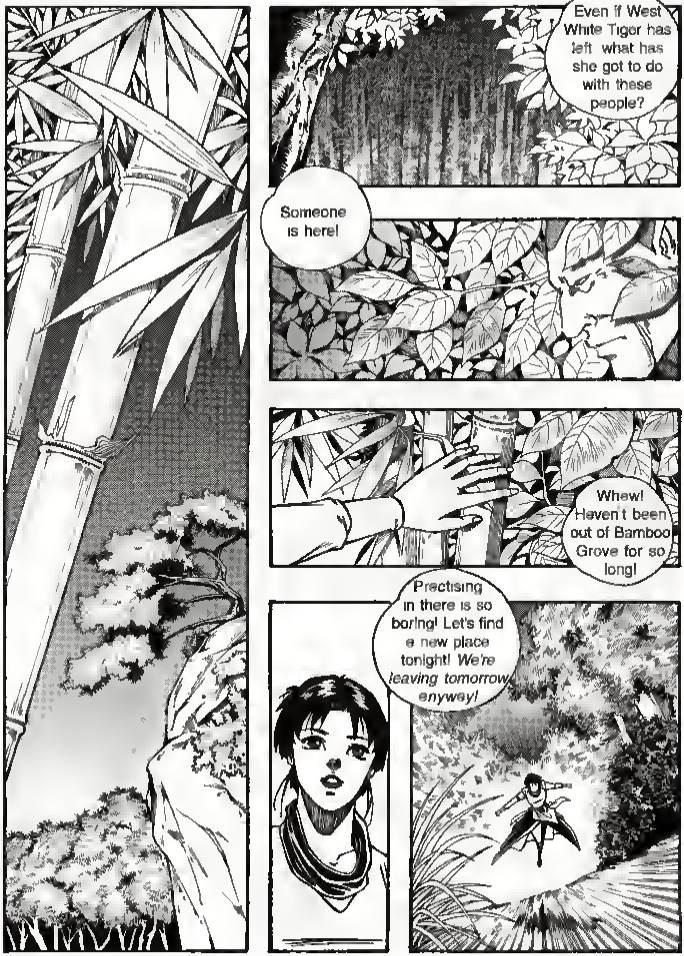

It's been a long time since we left Mt Dream Cloud and the power of the evil realm has reached an intimidating level
We have to return and discuss a way out with our fellow disciples!
Ah! Chan before Chi Xue left, she mentioned something about the evil realm attacking Mt Dream-Cloud!
But she said she'll be back to help when the time comes!

Chen, don't worry With Chi Xue's help, those troublemakers are in for a thrashing!
Ah, Xing Ling, how's your spiritual force?
Looks like you're really getting better!
Uh-huh, it's all due to Chi Xue's guidance! And... Chan, thank you for asking her to teach me!
Let me tell you something... I now possess a spirit sword!

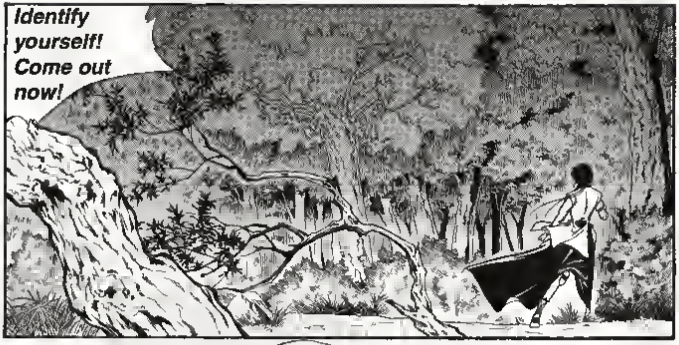


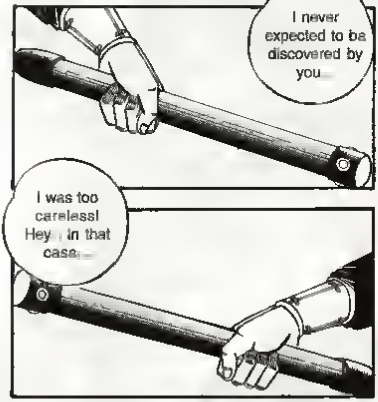
Pande Sage, I know your rule. For every enquiry... ... there must be a gift of bamboo shoots
However, I can't obtain them at such short notice. I wonder if you'd let me compensate you next time?
Eh, as they say, rules must not be broken, or I'll be down on my luck!
He, ha! Since there was a precedent, I'll let you owe me this once!
He, he! How forthright! Sage, I'd like to know where my junior No Brow is!
Qiong Qi No Brow... Oh... I remember she joined Xuen Huo Sect...
That's right!
Let me think. Oh, if I remember correctly...
She threw in her lot with the more powerful Moon Sect later on. She has made good progress and is now a right-hand envoy.

Ah! Moon Sect's right-hand envoy — Jade Rabbit is No Brow?
If my information is correct, that should be her!
Little lad what's up?
Panda Sage, have you seen White Tiger Zi Yan?
Haven't seen her after the gathering ended. Has she left?
Ah!


Even if West White Tiger has left what has she got to do with these people?
Someone is here!
Whew! Haven't been out of Bamboo Grove for so long!
Practising in there is so boring! Let's find a new place tonight! We're leaving tomorrow anyway!

Oh, Green Dragon instructed me to look out for a girl with short hair. Could this be her?
But she doesn't seem...
Who's there?

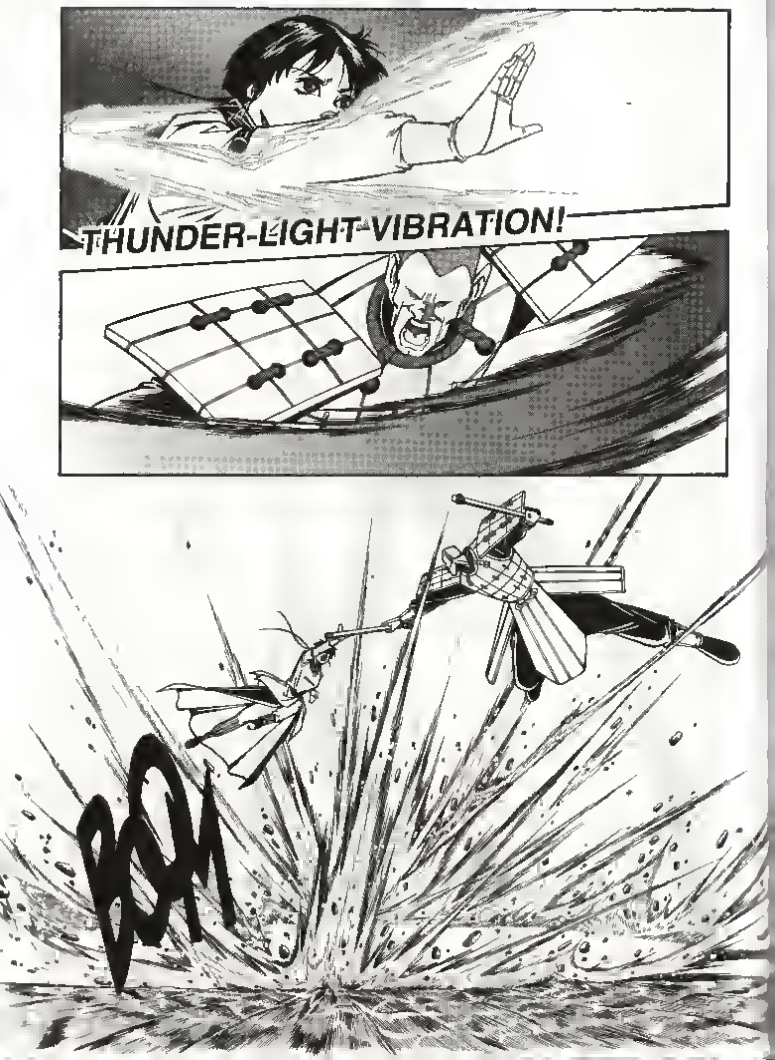

Identify yourself! Come out now!


I never expected to be discovered by you...
I was too careless! Hey... in that case...

You can leave your life behind!
BOM

Quickening

XUE XINLING:
FIRST STRIKE


THUNDER-LIGHT-VIBRATION!
BOOM

Ah! My spiritual force has increased greatly...
Hmmm! The special power of that little lass is marvellous!!
Looks like I have to use the spiritual glow way

** The power of spiritual glow way is second to that of the spirit sword. This martial art uses weapons to ignite the internal spiritual force, leading to the creation of a spiritual weapon*

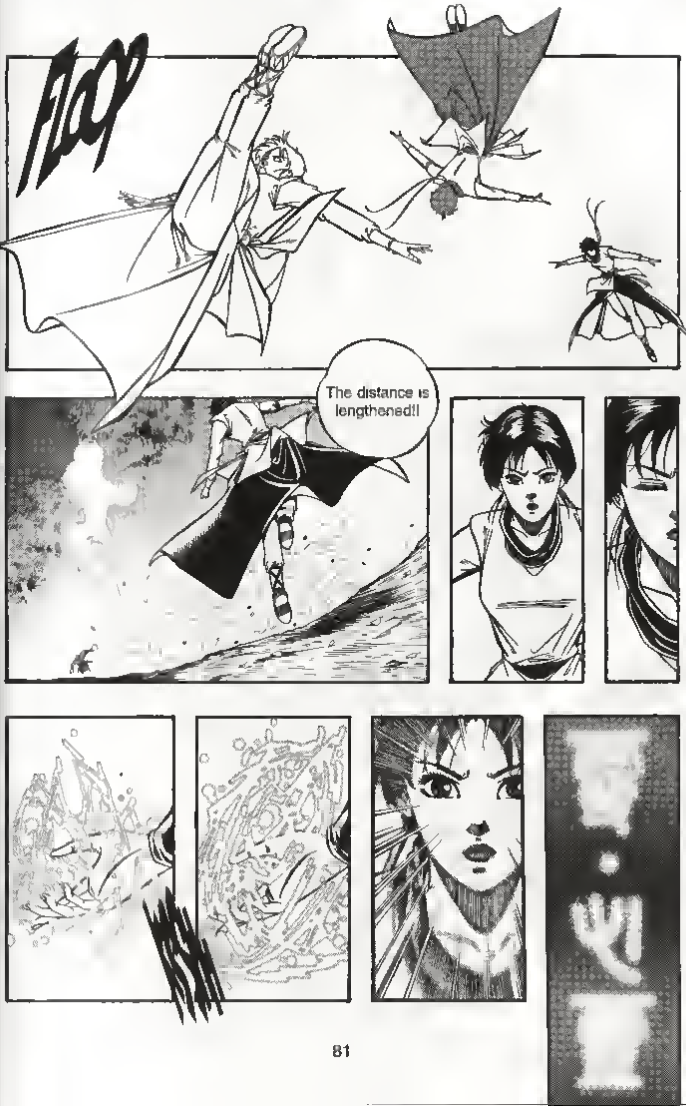
SPIRITUAL GLOW WAVE!
THUNDER CLOAK!
BOOM

BOOM

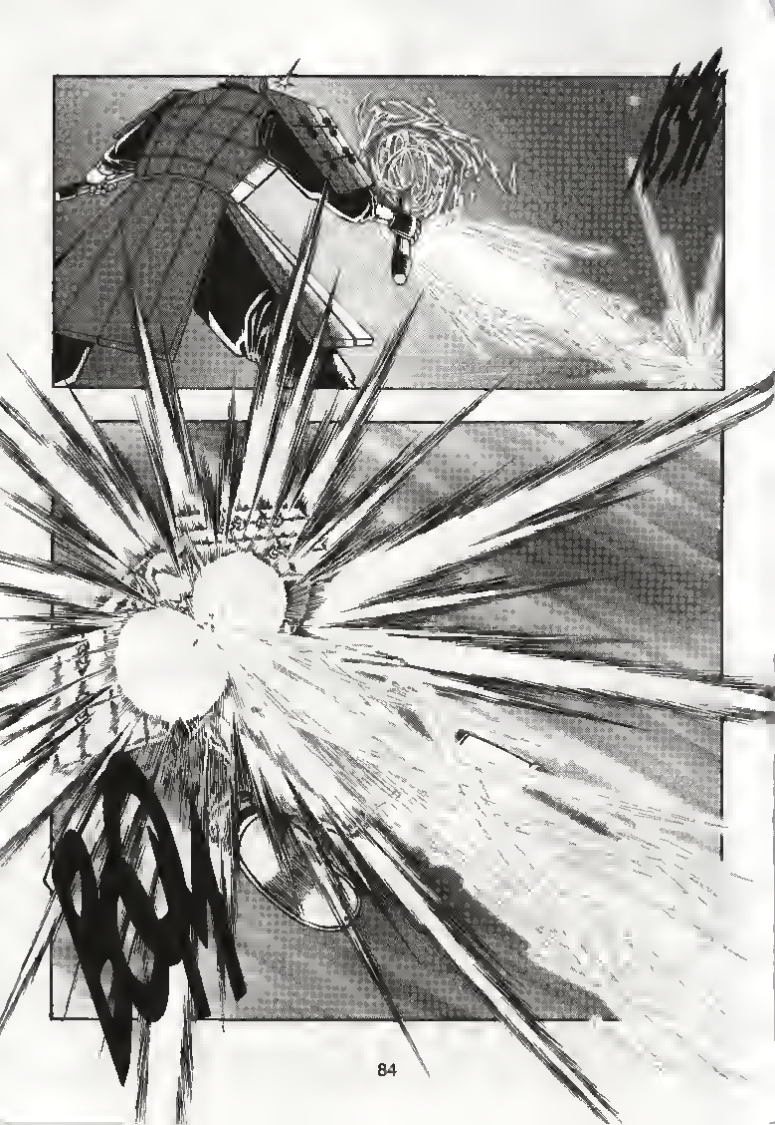
THUNDER VIBRATION!

This won't do If this continues, I won't be able to defeat him
Xue Xinling, emerge!!
Young lady don t be impatient! Your spiritual force can t be consolidated if your mind is not at ease!

Calm your emotions, stabilise the transfer of your special aura
Focus your special aura again and your spirit sword may be triggered any moment!
I understand now!!
DOUBLE THUNDER VIBRATION!!
BOOM


Flop
The distance is lengthened!!

SPIRIT OUT OF BODY!!



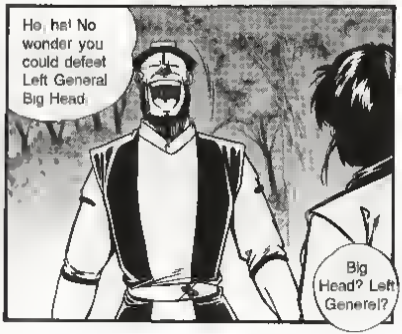
BOOM

Ha, ha!! The force of that little lass' swordplay has really widened my view of the pugilistic world!!

Ah! It's Senior One Brow who's giving me assistance! Thanks a lot!
He ha!! What help?
Oh, young lady your skills are extreordinary! May I know who's your master?

Senior, call me Xing Ling! Xing as in joyful and Ling as in agile!
A friend taught me these skills. She's the most powerful exponent in the righteous realm – Chi Xue!

The Destroyer of Evil Chi Xue?


He, he! No wonder you could defeat Left General Big Head.
Big Head? Left General?

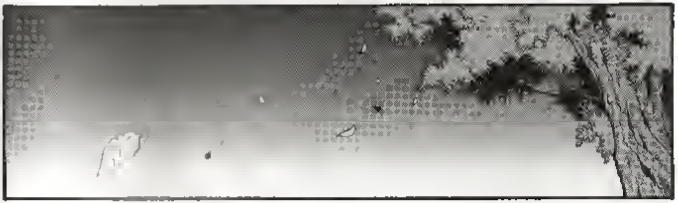
The one sparring with you is one of Blazing Sun's two generals — Big Head!
He is considerably strong and is quite renowned in the Celestial Zone!
Ah! Then why is he here? Looks like I have to inform Wang Chan!
Miss Xing Ling, when you were wielding your spirit sword, I could feel its great power.
Unfortunately, you were unable to bring that power to play!
Otherwise, that Big Head wouldn't have the chance to escape!
Yes, Chi Xue said the same thing. I still need lots of hard work in learning how to control and use the sword!
Ha ha! Interesting, interesting!
Now, the righteous realm not only boasts a Destroyer of Evil, it also has a young lady like you. Looks like the evil realm is going to get a big headache!! Ha ha!

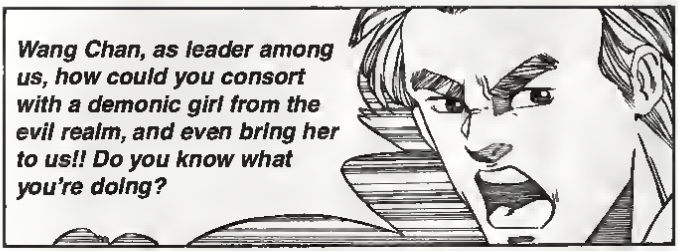
Ah! You're leaving, Senior?

Yeah White Tiger Zi Yan has left I have to follow her!
And I have to find out the whereabouts of Jade Rabbit, Moon Sect's right hand envoy!

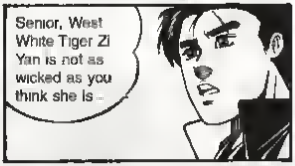
Remember, you can grasp the power of your spirit sword only when you're relaxed!
Till we meet again! He ha!

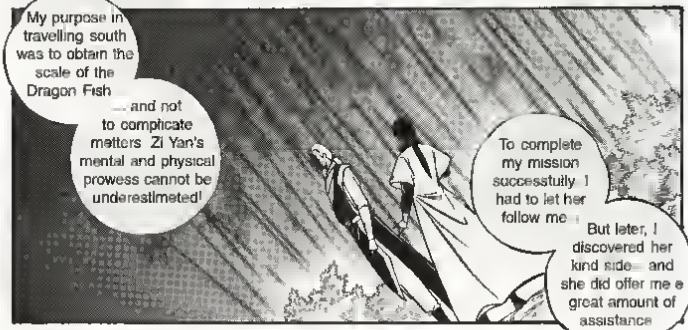
Till we meet again!




Wang Chan, as leader among us, how could you consort with a demonic girl from the evil realm, and even bring her to us!! Do you know what you're doing?

You're such a disappointment!


Senior, West White Tiger Zi Yan is not as wicked as you think she is


My purpose in travelling south was to obtain the scale of the Dragon Fish
... and not to complicate matters Zi Yan's mental and physical prowess cannot be underestimated!
To complete my mission successfully I had to let her follow me
But later, I discovered her kind side and she did offer me a great amount of assistance

Hence I tried to guide her back to the righteous realm...
Senior, the Four Celestial Creatures are symbols of justice after all!
Hey, your arguments sound logical, but are you sure she doesn't have a motive for helping you?
Chan, West White Tiger is truly stunning, but good and evil are forever on opposite sides...
You are just skirting the issue!
Senior, please have faith in me!

Chan, Xue Wu, we're leaving! I'll look you up at Mt Dream-Cloud later!
Xing Ling hold on a second. Put these on!
Huh?
Ha!... My armour and dagger!
Qi and I found them when we were at Mt E-mei investigating the cause of your mishap!*
They've been mended!

** Refer to Volume 5 for full details*

Ha, ha!! You look great!!

Uncle Panda Panda Belle!
Hey! I rushed this in time!
Xing Ling to congratulate you on mastering the spirit sword, this set of new clothes is for you! Treat this as a keepsake!
Thank you
But Belle... I think I can't put this on yet...
One day, I'll fully master and command my spirit sword. Till then, I'm not qualified to wear this.
Aryah... you're too serious...
Chan, after taking the medicine to expel his poison Qi will fall asleep for 36 hours!

The poison in his body should be fully dispelled when he wakes up, but he would still be quite weak
I've just made some medicine. Give him the medicine every morning and night, it's good for his recovery!

But... Chuyi, Brother Qi will be very disappointed when he wakes up to find you gone...

What can I do?... I've already informed him...

The scale from the Dragon Fish that Chen obtained is still aplenty
I wish to find some herbs which I can use to concoct an antidote to the Lethal Toad Poison!
This way, we won't be in danger when we meet with people from the evil realm!
Wow! That's great!

Chuyi, we have to leave!
All right!

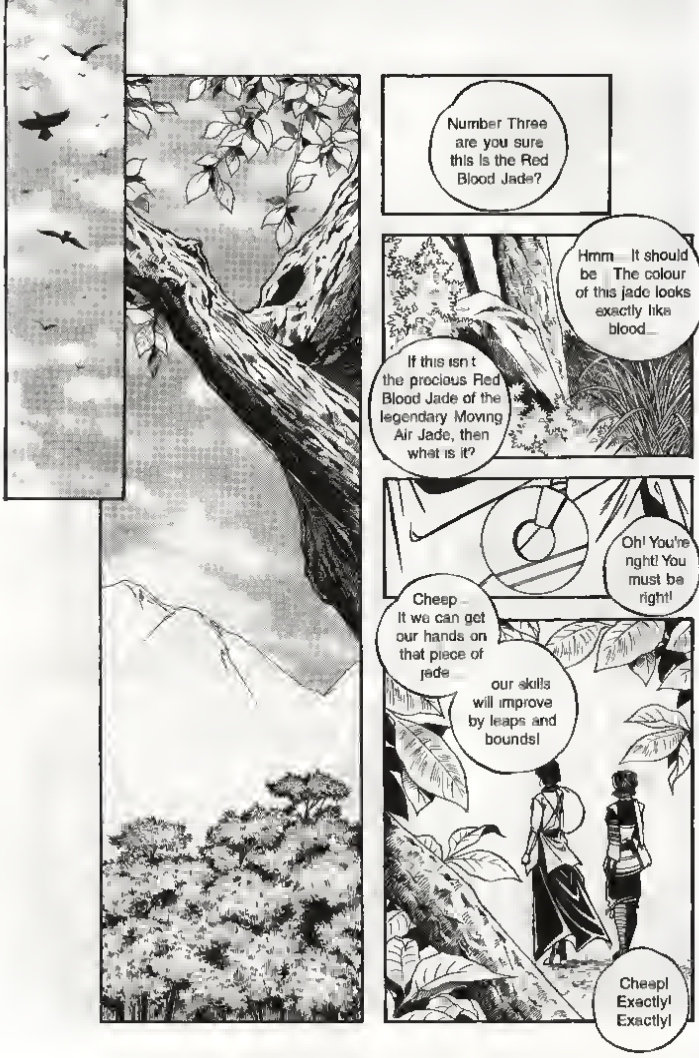
Thanks everyone... goodbye!

Oh!
Hey weren't you looking for me?
You old fogey, I know you've been suspecting me
That's why you're following me around!!
I won't deal with you now I have things to do!
Hmm!

West White Tiger, you're very smart, but if you're being perfunctory with me...
Ha, ha! Oh please, don't think so highly of yourself!
One Brow, I know you're looking for Little Rabbit, but I don't think you can even...
...find the secret location of the Moon Palace in the next 10 years.
However, if you promise not to bother me again, I'll tell you the location.
How about that?

How wonderful it must be to sleep for 36 hours straight!
You want to try that?
Phew! My bones are stiff after spending nearly a month in bed!
I'm so glad I can finally step out of bed! Ha ha!
We can leave in peace now that you are well and in such high spirits!
Ah! Brother Xue Wu and you are returning to Mt. Dream-Cloud?
Yup!

Woah!! Now who's going to play chess with me?
He... Go look for Old Panda.
I'm a genuine panda...
Or... Belle...
Got to cook! Got to cook! Extremely busy
Prepare dishes! Prepare dishes! Very busy
It's lonely without an opponent...

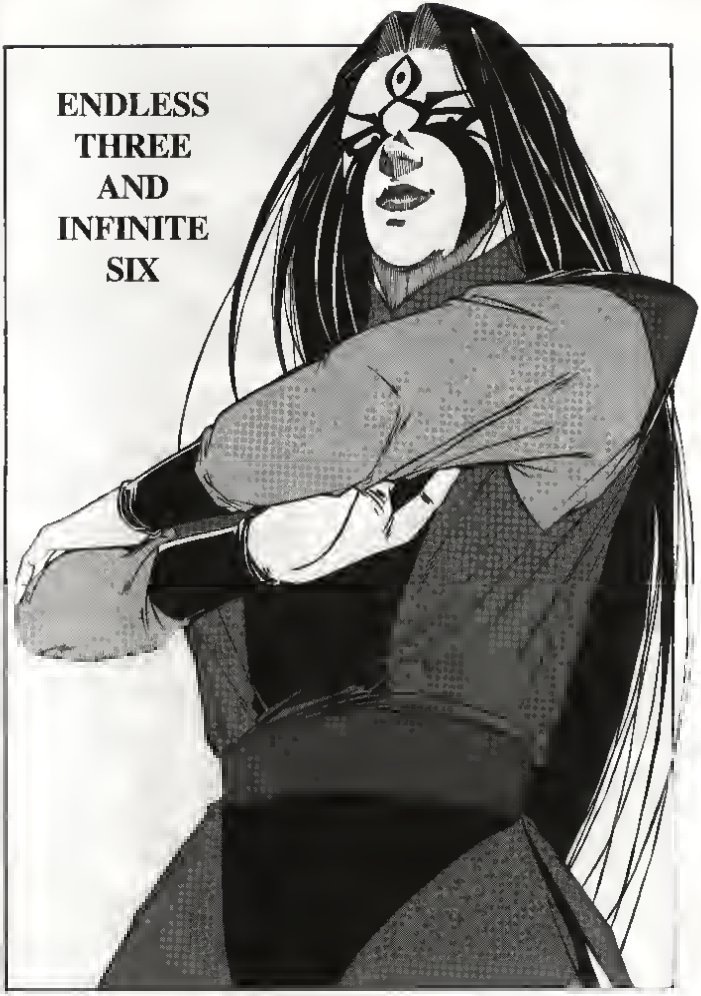

Number Three are you sure this is the Red Blood Jade?
Hmm... It should be... The colour of this jade looks exactly like blood...
If this isn't the precious Red Blood Jade of the legendary Moving Air Jade, then what is it?
Oh! You're right! You must be right!
Cheep... If we can get our hands on that piece of jade...
our skills will improve by leaps and bounds!
Cheep! Exactly! Exactly!

Hey!! You have already followed us for a whole morning, aren't you tired?
How did we get discovered?
Hey! Young lady... we wanted you to discover us! Don't be too smug!
Who are you people?

Heh, heh, I am the master of Mt Dream-Cloud — Weng Chan!
I'm his senior — Xue Wu!
KRANG

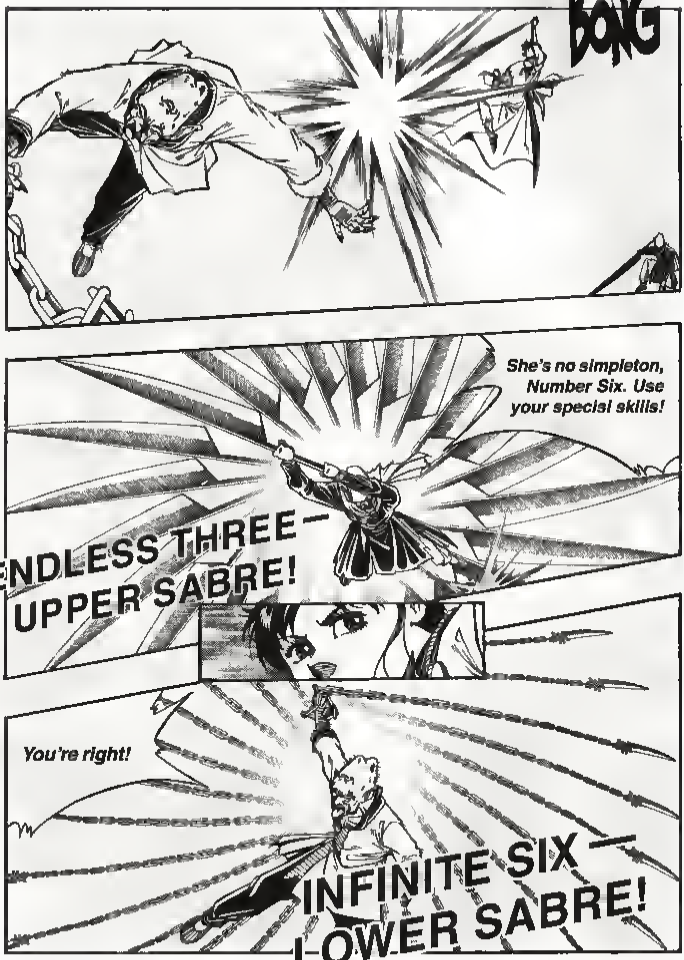
Ha, ha, ha!
Hey! Be serious! Look here! This is a robbery!
He...
Little lass, you'd better hand your jade over!!
We could let you off unscathed, otherwise... Heh, heh...
Hey, when did Weng Chen and Xue Wu become bandits?

Quickening

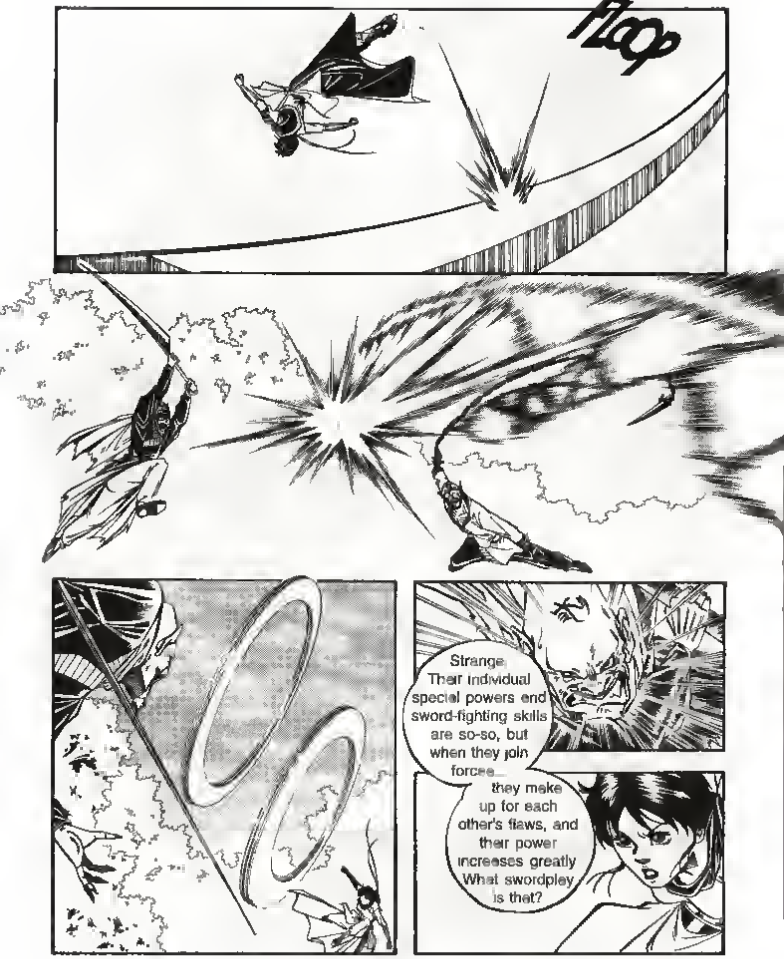

ENDLESS
THREE
AND
INFINITE
SIX

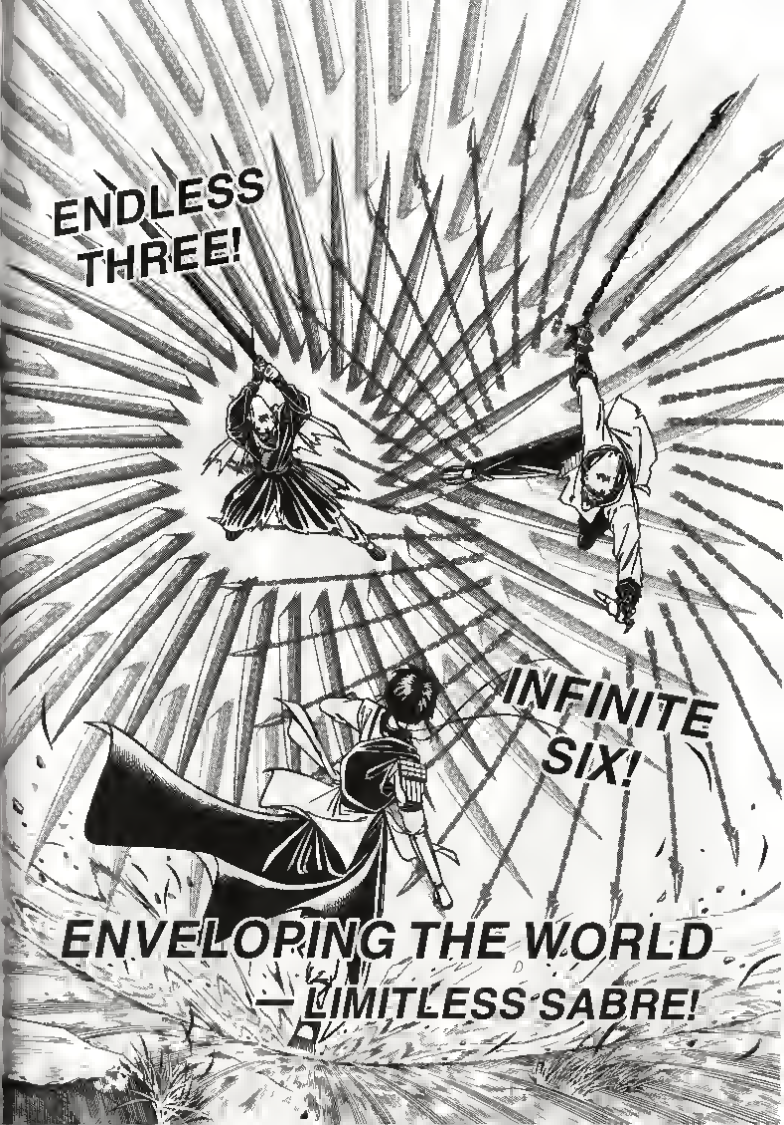
Hoop
Lass, stop the nonsense. Give us the Red Blood Jade!
Stand back, Chuyi!
Sigh.. fighting again...

Flop
Blip


BONG
She's no simpleton, Number Six. Use your special skills!
ENDLESS THREE— UPPER SABRE!
You're right!
INFINITE SIX— LOWER SABRE!

SWIPE
SHOOSH


flop
Strange. Their individual special powers and sword-fighting skills are so-so, but when they join forces—
they make up for each other's flaws, and their power increases greatly. What swordplay is that?


ENDLESS THREE!
INFINITE SIX!
ENVELOPING THE WORLD
— LIMITLESS SABRE!

XUE
XINLING!

BOOM

Withdraw!

Ah... spirit sword!

All right don't ever let me catch you doing this again!
Get lost!

Most respected female chivalrous pugilist, thank you for sparing our lives! Please take us in!
Wah! What pugilist? Sounds coarse My name is Xing Ling!!
Why should I take you in? Get going!

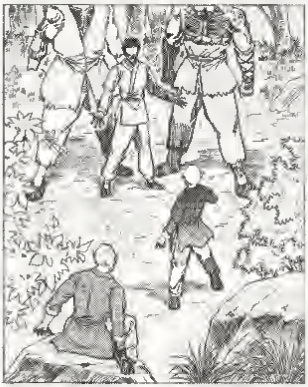
Chivalrous pu... Miss Xing Ling we beg you to save us

Who did you offend? Why did you pose as Wang Chan and Xue Wu?

Hey! Stop calling me a chivalrous pugilist! What country bumpkins.
Sigh... We have offended so many people

We brothers were ordinary farmers. We lost our homes in the war.

When we were down and out, we met some demons from the Blazing Sun Sect and so, were taken into the Celestial Zone.



From then on, we began to practise our spiritual force, and developed an unusual power.

But with the improvement of our skills, our physical appearance began to change too.

However, the demons' actions were too inhuman.

We couldn't take it any longer, so we decided to leave.

Sigh! Now we know it's impossible to leave the sect! They went our heads.

On one of our getaways, we accidentally entered a cave. That's where we discovered a set of sword-fighting skills.

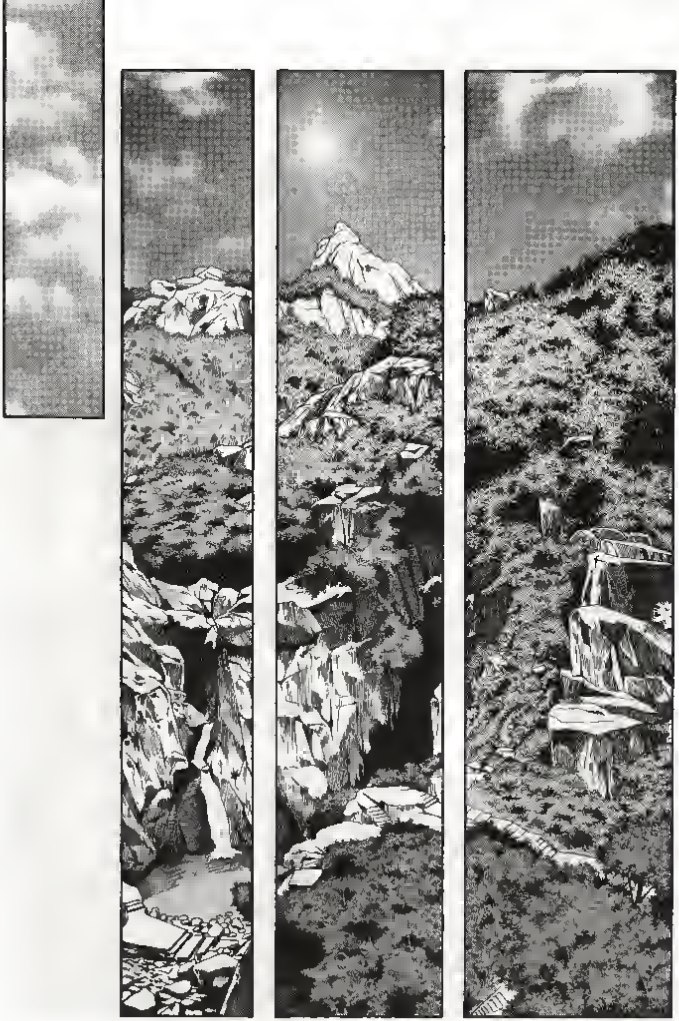
Finding it fun, we started to practise it. That was what we used just now, and is known as Limitless Sabre. But our intelligence is limited, so we each learnt half of it.

Later, we even used this set of skills to beat off assassins from the Blazing Sun Sect.

But we're really tired of these cat-and-mouse games.

That's why we wanted to improve our skills We've heard about the renowned Wang Chan and Xue Wu, so we...
Miss Xing Ling, your skills are superb, please take us in!
I can't! I'm on an errand Also, I'm not capable and am not qualified to take you in!
However, I'm going to meet a lady of superb ability!
Ah! Who could be better than you?
My friend who taught me the spirit sword — Chi Xue!
Ha! Destroyer of Evil... Chi Xue!

Heh, heh, so you are nearby, that's great.
But, having experienced your strength I'd better prepare a little surprise for you
It's so easy to land you righteous people in my trap
I'm so excited!
Ha, ha, ha, ha, ha, ha!



Chuyi, stay here and see if you can save them!
Number Three, Number Six, go help Chuyi!

It's so cruel
Ha it looks like there isn't a living soul around. Who do I save?
Yes!
Don't just stand there! Go check on everyone's injuries!

Too much!
Huh? These bloodstains are really too obvious
Is this a trap? Can't consider too much!
Ah!

Abomi-
nable!

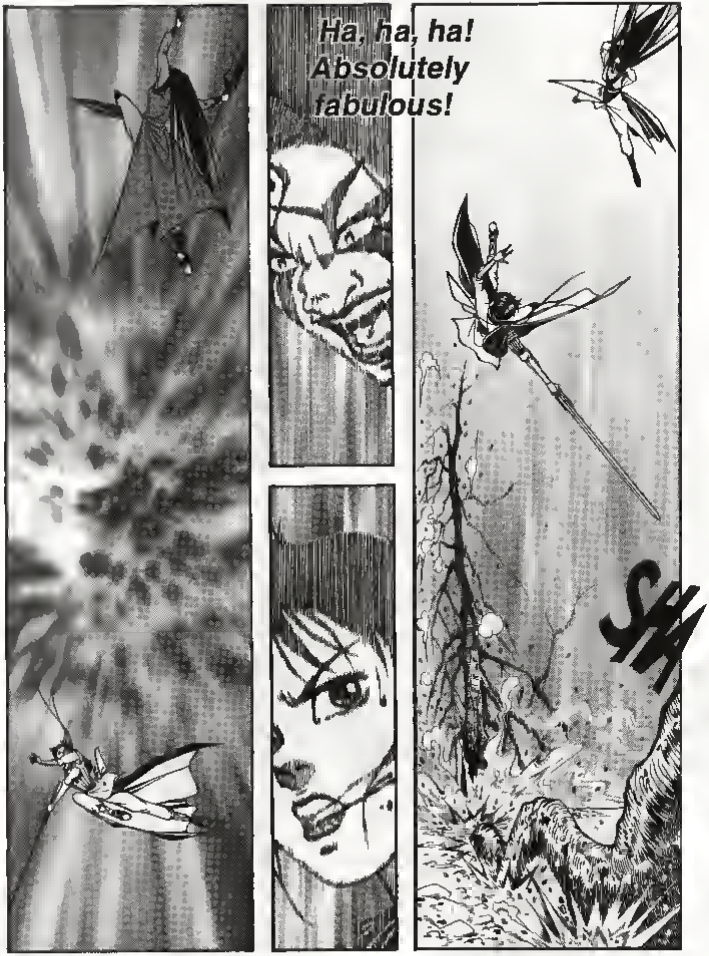
Ha, ha, ha, ha, ha, ha!

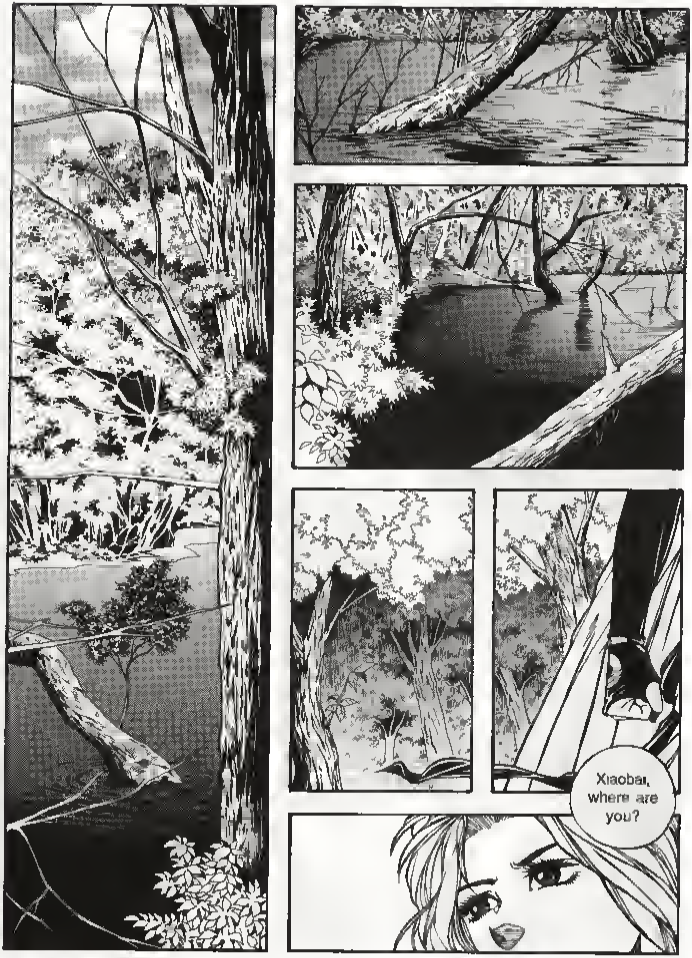
Ha, ha, ha! Like I said it's so easy to capture you buffoons in one fell swoop!
Ah! This strange attire...
Chuyi mentioned it before... The one who defeated Xue Wu... Xuan Tian Crow?!
According to her, this loony was injured by me... Looks like she's coming for me...
Ha, ha... This must be my greatest challenge...

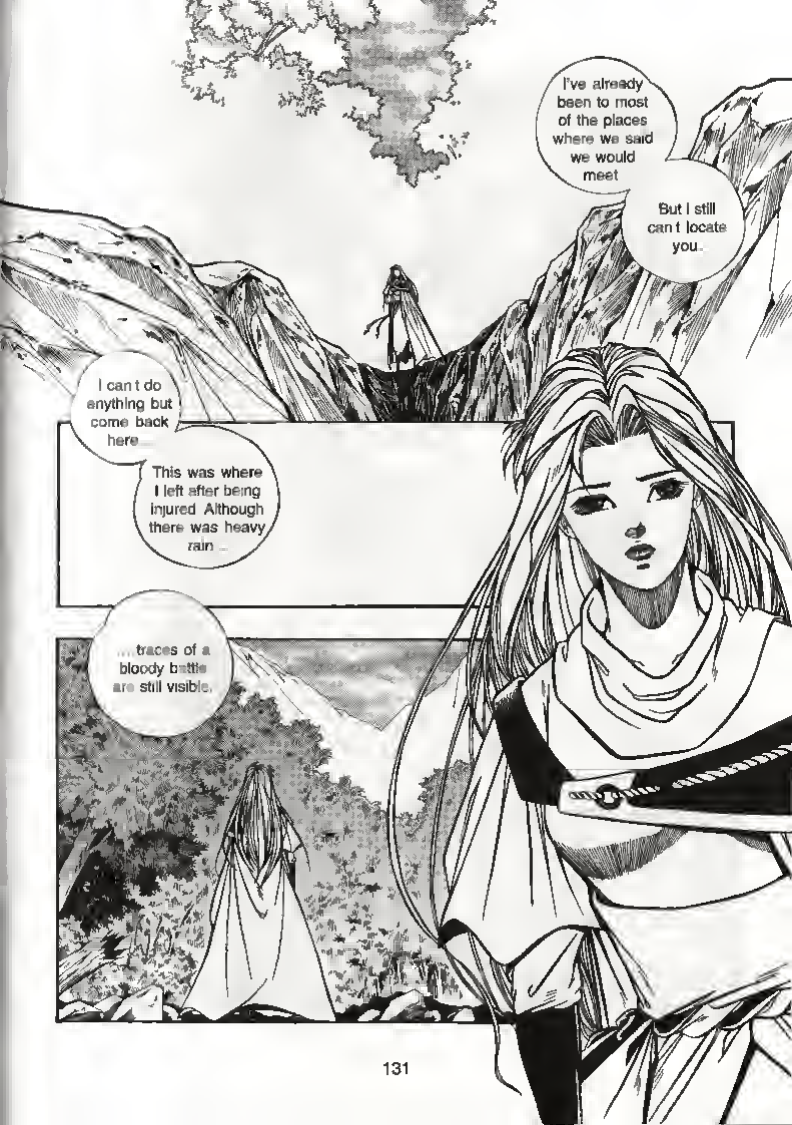
Heh, heh
The sword with extraordinary spiritual force...

Seems like I've to get the upper hand first Heh heh...

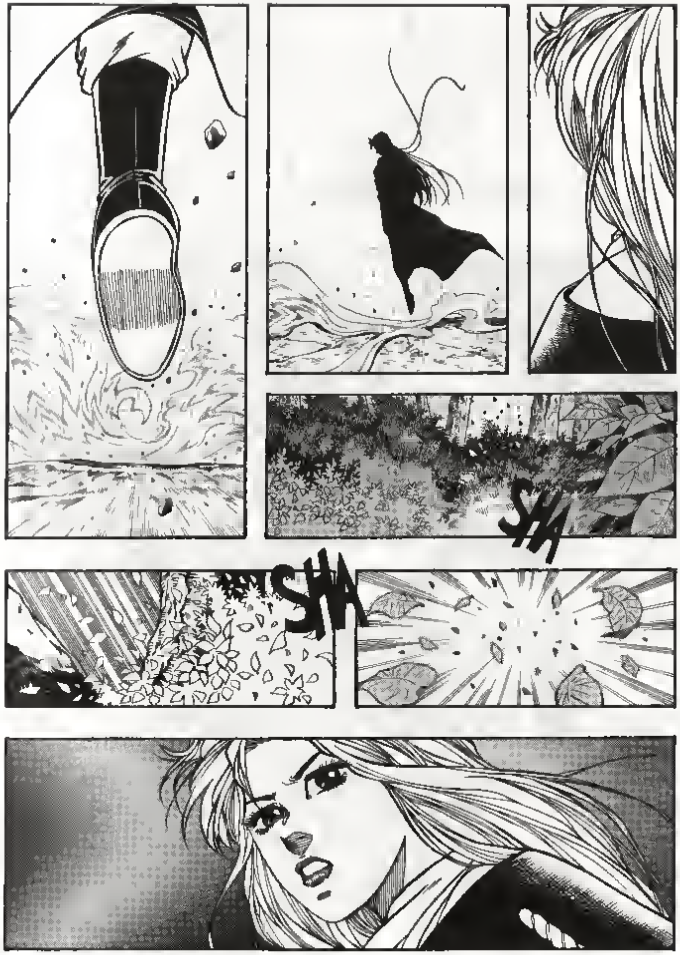
ZENG

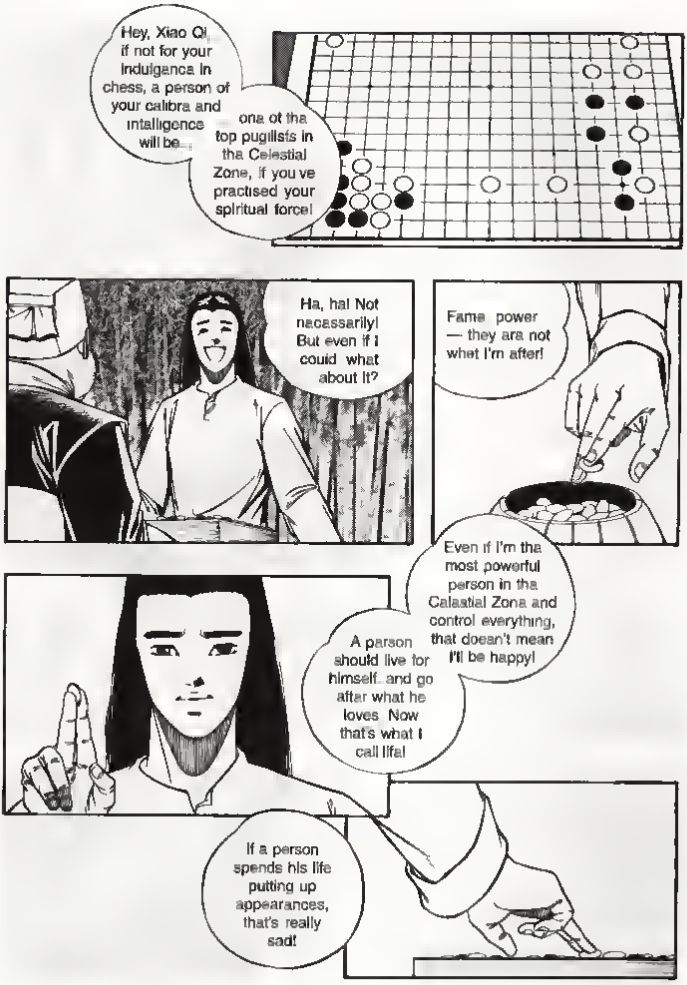

Ha, ha, ha!
Absolutely
fabulous!
SHA


Xiaobai, where are you?


I've already been to most of the places where we said we would meet
But I still can't locate you...
I can't do anything but come back here...
This was where I left after being injured. Although there was heavy rain...
...traces of a bloody battle are still visible.

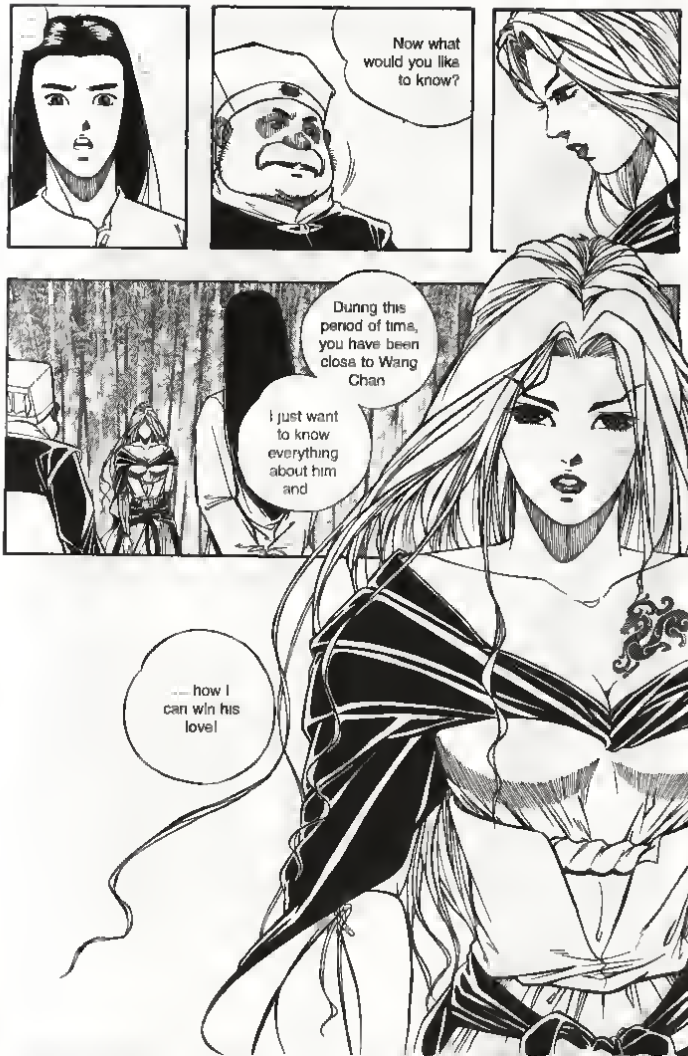
Xiaobai, can you receive my message?
Where are you?


SHA
SHA


Hey, Xiao Qi, if not for your indulgence in chess, a person of your calibre and intelligence will be...
... one of the top pugilists in the Celestial Zone, if you've practised your spiritual force!
Ha, ha! Not necessarily! But even if I could, what about it?
Fame, power — they are not what I'm after!
Even if I'm the most powerful person in the Celestial Zone and control everything, that doesn't mean I'll be happy!
A person should live for himself... and go after what he loves. Now that's what I call life!
If a person spends his life putting up appearances, that's really sad!

Eh? Old Panda, here's another guest!
Huh?
He he! No wonder you're a prodigy in the game of chess. Your unique opinions have earned my utmost admiration!
West White Tiger?
He! Old Panda, you should change the layout of your Bamboo Grove!
Otherwise, people like us who have been here before, can come and go as we wish!

I don't mind having beauties like you dropping by! Ha, ha!
Really? Then, Old Panda, this is my present for you!
Oh? West White Tiger Zi Yan is an intelligent lady. Don't tell me you need my help?
Ha, ha! The emerald bamboo shoots you've brought are reputably exquisite and I usually love to eat them.
But they're grown 100 miles away at the bottom of a mountain.
Heh, that's right. These shoots were gathered from that bamboo grove.
It's a pity I've razed the entire emerald bamboo grove down to the last shoot!
Now, these are the most precious shoots available, so you'd better savour them!


Now what would you like to know?
During this period of time, you have been close to Wang Chan
I just want to know everything about him and
... how I can win his love!

Coming Up Next...

Will Xing Ling stand a chance against Xuan Tian Crow — one of the Seven Great Powers?
Can Panda Sage accede to White Tiger's request?
How is Xiaobai? Will Chi Xue be reunited with it?
What setbacks will come Chi Xue's way?

The Celestial Zone
Volume 10: Lethal Blood Transmutation
Fans of Chi Xue must grab a copy
before it's too late!

Quickening

The Celestial Zone

Spirit Sword — Xue Xinling 9

Written & Illustrated by
WEE TIAN BENG

An Asiapac Publication

The Celestial Zone

Spirit Sword – Xue Xinling 9

This series relates the camaraderie and heart-stopping exploits of an extraordinary group of people during the tumultuous Warring States Era. Living in a world of their own — a place known as the Celestial Zone — they worked on cultivating special powers beyond the comprehension of mere mortals. Unfortunately, one group branched into the cultivation of evil power and the showdown between two opposing forces began ...

Xing Ling finally developed her own spirit sword — Xue Xinling! Now, however, she would have to learn how to control this powerful weapon.

Sensing that Chi Xue wanted to wait for Wang Chan, Xing Ling urged her to stay on. But Chi Xue was adamant about leaving. Soon, Wang Chan returned to Bamboo Grove, but with White Tiger in tow, much to everyone's displeasure. Later, White Tiger went to Panda Sage for advice on winning Wang Chan's heart.

On her way to deliver a gift to Chi Xue, Xing Ling ran into the diabolical Xuan Tian Crow –

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